Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-92-061
Monday
30 March 1992

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-92-061 30 March 1992

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

FRONT PAGE

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Libyan Suspects To Remain at Arab League Disposal *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 3
Statement to International Court *[Tripoli TV]* 3
No Possibility of Extradition *[London AL-HAYAH 27 Mar]* 3
League To Discuss Libyan 'Ideas' *[Cairo Radio]* 4
Further on Libyan Proposals *[MENA]* 4
Meeting Continues *[Cairo Radio]* 4
Matter in UN's Hands *[Cairo Radio]* 4
Libyan Stand Reaffirmed *[JANA]* 5
Commentary on 'Strike' Against Libya *[Algiers VOP]* 5
Saudi Arabia's 'Divisive' Regional Policy Viewed *[London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 26 Mar]* 5
'Partial Reopening' of Iraq-Syrian Border *[Paris AL-MUHARRIR 30 Mar]* 6

Palestinian Affairs

'Ashrawi Says U.S. Offers Peace Talks Invitation *[Jerusalem International]* 6
Meets With Canadian Official *[Jerusalem Radio]* 7
PLO Calls for U.S. Pressure on Israel *[Tunis Radio]* 7
Fatah Revolutionary Council Meets 21-25 Mar *[Algiers VOP]* 8
Supports Continued Peace Process *[AL-RA'Y 28 Mar]* 10
Al-Husayni: Palestinians Executed Without Trial *[SPA]* 10
PLO Considers Moving Headquarters to Yemen *[Kuwait Radio]* 10

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Government Dissolves One-Fourth of Local Councils *[Algiers Radio]* 11
Council Hears Financial Reports *[Algiers Radio]* 11
FIS 'Implicitly' Admits Attacks on Police *[AFP]* 11
Attackers Wound Blida Policeman *[Algiers Radio]* 12
Detainees Released From Southern Security Centers *[Algiers Radio]* 12

Egypt

Libya's al-Kharrubi, al-Bishari Arrive for Talks *[MENA]* 12
Confer With 'Amr Musa *[MENA]* 12
'Confidence' Expressed in Arab Committee *[Cairo Radio]* 12
Al-Bishari Denial Welcomed *[MENA]* 13
Libyan Delegation Meets Mubarak *[MENA]* 13
Conveys al-Qadhdhafi Message *[MENA]* 13
'Amr Musa Comments on Meeting *[MENA]* 13
Libyans Depart *[MENA]* 14
Russian Envoy Conveys Yeltsin Message to Mubarak *[MENA]* 14
EC Delegation Leaves Cairo for Gaza Strip *[Cairo Radio]* 14

Libya

Western Powers Seek 'To Dismantle' UN *[JANA]* 15
Communique Marks Expulsion of British Forces *[JANA]* 15

Sudan

Armed Forces Hold 'Initiative' in South *[Omdurman Radio]* 15
SPLA: Libya, Iran, Ethiopia Send Combat Forces *[AFP]* 15
Government Warns Red Cross Not To Help SPLA *[SUNA]* 16
National Transitional Assembly Leader Dies *[SUNA]* 16

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Saudi Arabia

Source Denies Patriot Missiles Sold to China *[Riyadh TV]* 17
Fahd Discusses Elections, Reforms, Jordanian Ties *[SPA]* 17

IRAQ

Saddam Husayn Chairs RCC Meeting 29 Mar *[Baghdad Radio]* 20
Tariq 'Aziz Warns UNSC of U.S.-British 'Games' *[Baghdad Radio]* 20
Spokesman Rebuts Gates Statement on Scud Missiles *[INA]* 20
UN Team Extends Stay; No Comment on Gates Remark *[AFP]* 20
Team Leader: Mission 'Very Fruitful' *[AFP]* 21
UN Talks on Easing Oil Exports Conclude *[AFP]* 21
Barzani Says Kurdish Elections Set for 30 Apr *[AFP]* 21
PUK Delegation Visits Tehran; Battles in South *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 22
Iraqi Army Shells Chamchamal 26 Mar *[Voice of the People of Kurdistan]* 22
'Large Number' Killed *[Tehran TV]* 22
Libya's al-Bishari Sends Message to Ahmad Husayn *[INA]* 22

ISRAEL

Levi Statement on Decision To Quit Government *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 23
Reiterates Reasons for Quitting *[Jerusalem Radio]* 23
Levi Aides Remark on Future Moves *[Jerusalem Radio]* 24
Shamir Aides Have 'No Comment' *[Jerusalem TV]* 24
Shamir Cancels Trip to U.S. Amid 'Mistrust' *[Jerusalem TV]* 24
U.S. Team Said To See No Evidence on Patriots *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
Netanyahu on U.S. Relations, Patriot Inspection *[Jerusalem TV]* 25
Rabin Calls for 'Cease-Fire' With U.S. *[Jerusalem TV]* 25
Knesset Committee Head on Ties With U.S. *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
Sharon on Ties With U.S., Jerusalem Settlements *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 27
Delay in Reply to Invitation to Peace Talks *[DAVAR 30 Mar]* 28
Defense Source Reacts as Katyushas Fired at Zone *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
Preparations for Nuclear Power Station Continue *[HA'ARETZ 26 Mar]* 29
Publication of Defense Export Audit Partly Banned *[HA'ARETZ 27 Mar]* 29

JORDAN

King Said To Reject UN Forces for Iraqi Border *[Paris AL-MUHARRIR 30 Mar]* 31
Editorial on Saudi King's Statements on Democracy *[AL-RA'Y 29 Mar]* 31

LEBANON

Hizballah Delegation Visit to Sudan Detailed *[AL-'AHD 13 Mar]* 32
Amal Denies Hizballah Behind Argentine Blast *[RFL]* 32
Buwayz Sees 'Happy Ending' for German Hostages *[VOL]* 32
Al-Murr Views Government, Army Deployment *[VOL]* 32

Israeli Movements Reported in Security Zone *[Beirut Radio]* 33
'Outstanding' Response Expected *[VOL]* 33
Israel 'Exaggerating' Rumors *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 33
Army Deployment in Western al-Biqa' Detailed *[Beirut Radio]* 34
Israelis Reportedly Shell al-Nabatiyah Area *[RFL]* 34
Attack on 'Occupation Troops' Claimed *[Voice of the People]* 34

SYRIA

Efforts 'To Prepare' Basil al-Asad Detailed *[Paris AL-MUHARRIR 30 Mar]* 35
Libyan Official Received by Assembly Speaker *[Damascus Radio]* 35
Meets Ba'th Official *[Damascus Radio]* 35
Communists Said To Invite Honecker to Damascus *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 35
Editorial Laments Israeli 'Policy of Aggression' *[SANA]* 35
Commentary Says Security Council Seen as 'Tool' *[Damascus Radio]* 36
Al-Zu'bi Receives Iranian Commerce Minister *[Damascus Radio]* 37
Talas Confers With Austrian Army Chief of Staff *[Damascus Radio]* 37

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Pro-Najibollah, Rebel Troops Still Clashing *[THE NEWS 27 Mar]* 38
Mojahedin Capture 400 Militiamen Near Herat *[THE PAKISTAN TIMES 30 Mar]* 38
Further on Mojahedin Operations *[Tehran Radio]* 38
10 Hezb-e Eslami Members Killed in Fighting *[Kabul Radio]* 38
More on Rival Group Clashes *[Kabul Radio]* 38

Bangladesh

UN Envoy To Assess Burmese Refugee Situation *[Dhaka Radio]* 38
Minister Discusses Refugees, List Given to Burma *[Dhaka Radio]* 39
Border Corridor Agreement With India Welcomed *[Dhaka Radio]* 39
Dhaka University Tense After Student 'Rampage' *[AFP]* 39
Mock Court Sentences Rightist Leader to Death *[AFP]* 40

India

Former Union Carbide Chief's Extradition Sought *[Delhi Radio]* 40
Union Carbide Spokesman Cited *[Delhi Radio]* 41
Solanki's Talks With Ukraine President Viewed *[ISI]* 41
Ukraine Offers Economic Experience *[Delhi Radio]* 42
Friendship, Cooperation Accords Signed *[Delhi Radio]* 42
'Defense Spares' Will Continue *[Delhi Radio]* 42
Kravchuk on Weapons, Black Sea Fleet *[AFP]* 42
Kravchuk Stand on Kashmir Solution *[Delhi Radio]* 42
Ministers Say India Ready for Mideast Role *[AFP]* 42
Minister Asks for LTTE Leaders' Extradition *[Delhi Radio]* 43
French Help Sought To Trace LTTE Militants *[Delhi Radio]* 43
Spokesman Details Talks With French Minister *[ISI]* 43
Envoy Passes Message From al-Qadhdhafi to Rao *[Delhi Radio]* 43
Afghan Wolasi Jerga Chairman Meets Solanki *[Kabul Radio]* 43
Delegation Attends Meeting *[Kabul Radio]* 44
Spokesman Decries Amnesty International Report *[Delhi Radio]* 44
Agricultural Agreement Signed With Cyprus *[Nicosia Radio]* 44
Border Corridor on 'Perpetual Lease' to Bangladesh *[Delhi Radio]* 44
Security Forces Alerted on Kashmir Control Line *[Delhi Radio]* 44
Situation Along Border 'Normal' *[Delhi Radio]* 44
Punjab Chief Urges Militants To Give Up Arms *[Delhi Radio]* 44
Beant Singh Urges End to Violence *[Delhi Radio]* 45
Police Fire on Protestors Over Militant's Death *[AFP]* 45

Bombs Damage Jamshedpur Airport Tower, Plane *[Delhi Radio]* 45
Former Uttar Pradesh Chief, Activists Arrested *[Delhi Radio]* 46
Nagaland Legislative Assembly Dissolved *[Delhi Radio]* 46
BJP Protests Price Rise, Stages Walk Out *[Delhi Radio]* 46
Parliament Passes Budget, Gives Concessions *[Delhi Radio]* 46
Institute Identifies Source of Seized AK-47's *[Delhi TV]* 47
Parliament Briefed on Missile System Production *[Delhi Radio]* 47

Iran

Khamene'i on Palestinians, Majles Elections *[Tehran Radio]* 47
U.S., Israel Called 'Number One Enemies' *[Tehran Radio]* 50
Jerusalem Archbishop Speaks at Tehran Rally *[Tehran Radio]* 51
Embassy Again Denies Involvement in Bombing *[IRNA]* 51

Pakistan

Police Fire Warning Shots To Disperse Marchers *[AFP]* 52
Kashmiri Leaders Arrested *[Islamabad Radio]* 52
Prime Minister Defends Measures *[Islamabad Radio]* 52
Pakistani Flags Raised in Azad Jammu, Kashmir *[Islamabad Radio]* 52
Sharif on Kashmir, Nuclear Issue, Afghanistan *[Pakistan TV]* 52
Government Clamps Down on JKLF in Muzaffarabad *[THE NEWS 29 Mar]* 53
Minister on 'Constructive' Dialogue With India *[Pakistan TV]* 53
Minister on 'Perpetual Tension' With India *[Islamabad Radio]* 53
Minister Goes to Iran for Talks on Afghanistan *[Islamabad Radio]* 54
Causes of Sharif Dispute With ANP Explored *[THE NEWS 29 Mar]* 54
Government Called on To Crackdown on Terrorism *[DAWN 26 Mar]* 54

Sri Lanka

'Police Alert' for LTTE Intelligence Chief *[Colombo International]* 55
Government Troops Attacking LTTE 'Terrorists' *[Colombo International]* 55
172 LTTE Fighters Killed in Ongoing Operation *[Colombo International]* 55
Colombo Reports Fighting, Casualties in North *[Colombo International]* 55

Israel

"I have decided to quit the government," declared Foreign Minister Levi, Tel Aviv radio reported. Levi's "confidants" assert that he may "soon" quit the Likud Party to set up a new party and that after the Knesset elections he might form a government together with the Labor Party under Rabin, Jerusalem radio reported. The prevailing mood in the Prime Minister's Office toward the U.S. Administration is "one of mistrust," and Shamir has decided not to travel to the United States to attend the annual convention of Jewish lobbying groups, Jerusalem television observed. Meanwhile, the members of the U.S. fact-finding team in Israel investigating allegations that Tel Aviv transferred Patriot missile technology "unofficially" said that there is "no evidence" to support the charge, but they made no official statement before leaving the country, Jerusalem radio noted. Israel is for now not accepting the U.S. invitation to the next round of bilateral talks and is delaying its reply until it receives "firm assurances" that this round will be the last one held in Washington, DAVAR stated.

Iraq

An official spokesman criticized statements by CIA Director Gates contending that Iraq still possesses "hundreds of Scud missiles and nuclear, chemical, and biological facilities," noting that "these claims come only from one side, the U.S. Administration, and are politically motivated," INA observed. Commenting on the stand adopted by the UN Security Council during its periodic review of the economic blockade, Tariq 'Aziz told INA that this position "is further evidence of U.S.-British control over the Council's trends and resolutions" and that the Council members "should not allow the games of U.S.-British policy to control" its resolutions and trends, Baghdad radio reported.

Saudi Arabia

An official source at the Defense and Aviation Ministry told SPA that reports claiming the U.S. Defense Department believes that Riyadh and not Israel transferred Patriot missile technology to China are "fundamentally fabricated," adding "we are satisfied" with U.S. Defense Secretary Cheney's statement in which he "categorically denied there is any truth in that fabricated report," Riyadh television stated. In an interview with AL-SIYASAH reported by SPA, King Fahd declared that "the prevailing democratic system in the world is not suitable for us in this region" and that "elections do not fall within the sphere of the Muslim religion." He added that "we for our part do not allow ourselves to help fundamentalist or nonfundamentalist movements in any other country" because "it is against our principles," the agency continued.

Palestinian Affairs

In an interview with Jerusalem international radio, Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the delegation to the peace talks, stated that the United States informed the Palestinians that the next round of negotiations will take place in Washington on 27 April and that an official invitation will be sent later; she added that "there is interest" in the details of the invitation. The PLO's official spokesman has asserted the "importance of U.S. intervention" to achieve progress in the Palestinian-Israeli peace talks, pointing out that "without such intervention nothing will be achieved," Tunis radio noted. He added that the Palestinians' participation in these negotiations "has borne fruit" because "the convening of the peace conference was in itself an important gain," the radio continued. At the end of its session in Tunis the Fatah Revolutionary Council declared its support for continuing the Middle East peace process but pointed out that "the PLO must be a primary party in this process," AL-RA'Y reported.

Jordan

A "sharp disagreement" has broken out between Amman and the United States concerning a U.S.-British-French proposal to deploy UN forces along the Jordanian-Iraqi border—in accordance with a UN Security Council resolution—to prevent Iraq from receiving "necessary commodities," but King Husayn rejected this plan because "such a resolution encroaches on Jordan's sovereignty and undermines its credibility," the Paris newspaper AL-MUHARRIR stated.

Egypt

Al-Kharrubi, member of the Libyan Revolution Command Council, arrived with a message from al-Qadhdhafi to Mubarak, and Foreign Minister Musa "expressed his satisfaction" with his counterpart's denial of reports concerning a request by the Arab League to hand over the two Lockerbie defendants, MENA reported.

Algeria

Due to "serious perturbations" in the operations of local and provincial people's councils, the Council of Government approved the dissolution of "incapable councils"—more than one-quarter of the nation's municipal and provincial councils—and appointed their replacements, Algiers radio reported.

Iran

Tehran radio reported the Friday prayers sermon by Khamene'i marking International Jerusalem Day in which he commented on the Palestine issue and the upcoming Majles elections. Meanwhile, the embassy in Buenos Aires reiterated its denial of "Iran's connection with" the bombing of Israel's embassy in that city, IRNA reported.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Libyan Suspects To Remain at Arab League Disposal

JN2603190192 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Interview with Muhammad al-Fayturi, Libyan ambassador to Belgium and representative to the International Court of Justice, by 'Abd-Hamid al-Yahyawi in The Hague on 26 March—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Al-Yahyawi] Will you hand over the two Libyan suspects to the Arab League soon, and if you are going to do so, does this mean that the two suspects will eventually be handed over to the U.S. and British authorities? Do you regard this as a Libyan maneuver or an indirect way to submit to U.S.-British demands?

[Al-Fayturi] As you are aware, in principle, Libyan law prevents the handing over of Libyan citizens. It is clearly and directly rejected in the Libyan [word indistinct] law. [Words indistinct] the principle of handing over people. Therefore, the principle of handing over people [words indistinct] cannot be acceptable to Libya because it does not conform with its internal laws or international law for that matter. [Words indistinct] the suspects will be placed at the disposal of the Arab League, a regional organization which offered to cooperate and demonstrated a positive stand with its recent resolution issued by the Arab foreign ministers. We trust this organization.

The suspects will remain at the Arab League's disposal pending a ruling by the International Court of Justice, which now has the complete file, will look into the legal Libyan demands, listen to the Libyan and other side's defense, and issue its verdict. Therefore, the two suspects will remain in Libya—which is an Arab League member and part of the Arab nation—at the Arab League's disposal.

[Al-Yahyawi] This means that they will not leave Libya under any circumstances?

[Al-Fayturi] I repeat that these people have been placed at the Arab League's disposal, provided they remain in Libya. This measure has been taken because we trust the Arab League as a regional Arab institution, its stand with regard to the crisis between Libya and the Western countries, the stand taken by its secretary general, and the stand taken by the Arab League foreign ministers in their recent meeting. We adopted this measure to provide a positive indicator—even to the two states concerned—and create an atmosphere of complete trust and leave the issue to the court to pass judgment in a suitable atmosphere and in an objective and legal manner, free from any pressures. [passage omitted]

Statement to International Court

LD2603232192 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] In this morning's session, members of the International Court of Justice listened to a speech by the secretary of the Libyan Arab People's Bureau in Brussels, who conveyed the greetings of the brother leader of the revolution to the court. He emphasized that the Great Jamahiriyah has no direct or indirect connection with the ugly Pan Am incident. He affirmed the legality of the Libyan stance and the complete cooperation that the Great Jamahiriyah has demonstrated in dealing with this case, emphasizing that Libya's rejection of UN Security Council Resolution 731 stems from Libyan sovereignty. He affirmed Libya's rejection of Western accusations and emphasized the terrorist nature of the American policy. He brought up the U.S. refusal to compensate Libyan Arab citizens who were the victims of the 1986 American aggression on Tripoli and Benghazi. He said that America has not compensated a single Libyan citizen, despite a decision condemning the United States issued by the UN General Assembly. He warned that any position that the court takes in favor of unjust Britain puts small countries under the threat of handing their citizens over to the big countries. The International Court of Justice will hold an evening session to listen to the speeches of the U.S., French, and British delegations. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Before coming to the International Court of Justice, what is your comment? [as heard]

[Unidentified Libyan representative] After the two British and U.S. requests to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah concerning the accusations, we immediately started investigations. The other side—the British and U.S. side—is the one that did not respond to these investigations and did not present the evidence it claims to possess in its accusation against the two people. [end recording]

No Possibility of Extradition

PM2703171592 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 27 Mar 92 p 5

[Unattributed interview with Ambassador Muhammad al-Fayturi, Libyan representative at the International Court of Justice in The Hague, "after the court's first session"]

[Text] [AL-HAYAH] The Libyan position on the question of extradition of the two accused seemed ambiguous after the return of the Arab League's delegation. What commitment did Libya make to the delegation?

[Al-Fayturi] We trust the Arab League and respect its good offices. That is why we have clearly decided to place these two citizens at its disposal, as an expression of that trust.

[AL-HAYAH] Will the league be able to take them out of Libya?

[Al-Fayturi] They will be at its disposal but they will remain in Libyan territory until a decision is made by the International Court of Justice [ICJ], which has already begun its meetings.

[AL-HAYAH] Some parties speak of "Libyan backtracking." What is your comment?

[Al-Fayturi] Libya has taken a clear position. Arab efforts are being made to settle the issue amicably and diplomatically. That is why we agreed to place the two individuals at the league's disposal pending a decision by the ICJ, which we respect because it is a part of the United Nations. Libya insists on its legal and legitimate position.

[AL-HAYAH] Will the two people accused not be handed over?

[Al-Fayturi] Libyan criminal law prohibits extradition. Nobody can break that law.

[AL-HAYAH] The statements made by and the attitudes adopted by several parties denoted Libyan willingness to hand over the two citizens. That is what the Security Council presidency understood from the statements made by the Libyan representative at the United Nations.

[Al-Fayturi] The question of extradition cannot be determined by any individual whether he is an executive, a minister, or an ambassador. It is a matter than can only be decided by the people's congresses and committees.

[AL-HAYAH] Is there any possibility of the congressess considering the matter?

[Al-Fayturi] That is up to them to decide whether to do so or not.

[AL-HAYAH] Can Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi not resolve this matter himself?

[Al-Fayturi] Al-Qadhdhafi has no power over the people's congresses. He is the leader of the revolution. The congresses are independent of him.

League To Discuss Libyan 'Ideas'

NC2803120992 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] The seven-member Arab League committee—grouping the permanent delegates of Egypt, Syria, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, and Mauritania—met today at League headquarters under Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid. The committee is to discuss the ideas and proposals submitted by Libya's permanent delegate, Dr. 'Ali 'Abd-al-Salam al-Turayki, to Dr. 'Abd- al-Majid in the past two days on ways to resolve the Libyan-Western crisis.

Further on Libyan Proposals

NC2903143492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1413 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Text] Cairo, 29 Mar (MENA)—In a meeting today, the Arab League seven-member committee in charge of examining the Libyan- Western crisis unanimously decided to entrust Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid with submitting the new Libyan proposals to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Ghali. Dr. 'Abd-al- Majid said he would not reveal the substance of the Libyan proposals before they are handed to the UN secretary general. A cable containing the committee's decision was immediately sent to Dr. Ghali.

The committee met at League headquarters in Cairo this afternoon, the fourth committee meeting at the level of permanent delegates. The committee members resumed discussions on the crisis in light of the new Libyan proposals brought by an envoy of Libyan revolution leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi, who is currently visiting Cairo.

Meeting Continues

NC2803153992 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid stated today that the seven-member Arab League committee is continuing its consultations to discuss the Libyan proposals to resolve the crisis between Libya and the Western countries.

Speaking at the end of the meeting of the seven-member committee at the delegates level in the Arab League building, Dr. 'Abd-al- Majid said that the committee will meet tomorrow morning to continue these consultations. He added that the Arab League is in constant touch with the UN secretary general through the League's delegate at the United Nations.

Matter in UN's Hands

NC2903154792 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Text] Today Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid chaired a meeting at the League's Cairo headquarters of the Arab League's seven-member committee grouping Egypt, Syria, Libya, Tunisian, Algeria, Morocco, and Mauritania, which is entrusted with examining the Libyan-Western crisis. During the meeting, the committee resumed consultations on the Libyan proposals regarding the crisis.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid has said that he sent a letter to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Ghali defining the Arab League's position on the crisis. The letter was discussed during the committee meeting and was unanimously approved by the committee's seven Arab member states. Dr. 'Abd al-Majid added: The matter is now up to the United Nations.

Libyan Stand Reaffirmed

LD2903190292 Tripoli JANA in English 1655 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Text] Paris, Al-Rabia [March] 29, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The International Court of Justice today resumed its proceedings for the third consecutive days on the case brought before it by the Great Jamahiriyah regarding the threats and pressures exerted against her by America and Britain.

During the morning session the court was addressed by the lawyer of the Great Jamahiriyah reaffirming the clear stance of the Great Jamahiriyah on this issue and that neither America nor Britain had any legal power to request the Great Jamahiriyah to violate her own sovereignty. The lawyer pointed out that Britain and the USA had no legal or judicial powers to force Libya towards that action. He said the present acts of the USA and Britain against the Great Jamahiriyah and the pressures they exeert did not have any legal foundations and that the two countries' moves inside the Security Council were aimed at preventing the world court from making a decision. He made clear that the American Atlantic agression in al-Tayr (April) 1986 on the cities of Tripoli and Benghazi constituted a blatant violation and gross breach of sovereignty and wihout any doubt one form of violence. The lawyer of the Libyan Arab side was replying to the claims of the United States representative.

JANA's correspondent in Paris reported that the United States of America were working in a blatant manner for the removal of the International Court of Justice jurisdiction at a time Washington, Paris and London were exerting open pressure on the Security Council to adopt a further tyrannical resolution against the Great Jamahiriyah.

Observers and diplomats expect that the contemptous acts of London and Washington vis a vis the world court might lead to serious results.

Commentary on 'Strike' Against Libya

LD2803093792 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers: Events and stands are following each other in quick succession with respect to the American, British, and French threat to Libya under the umbrella of UN Security Council Resolution 731. In addition there is the possibility of the Security Council passing another resolution in the next few hours leading to the imposition of a strict air and military blockade on Libya.

The Arab League's Ministerial Council did meet recently and requested the Security Council—or more precisely, the United States, Britain, and France—not to take any further measures against Libya so that the venerable Arab League could fulfill its mediation for implementing Resolution 731. In spite of this, Washington declared that it would not accept letting time pass and that Libya must fully comply with the resolution immediately.

Libya has announced its compliance with this resolution but is awaiting the ruling of the International Court of Justice, to whom it has submitted the Lockerbie case. Since this court is still in session and has not yet reached a final decision, Libya is eager to depend on international law against the American, British, and French threat. How can it be reasonable for the Security Council to impose an air and military blockade on Libya when the case is still before the International Court of Justice? If the court finds in favor of Libya, what will the Security Council's position be? If the council disregards this court and takes no notice of it, whatever its decision, what value or legal and civil credibility will be left for this court? What would be the justification for its existence?

A dangerous sequence of events is unfolding now: conflict is looming in the region and in the world in the face of these important questions. Will the Arabs be content with the recent meeting of their foreign ministerial council if this meeting is not held in this context, or will the Arab capitals realize at the last minute that the possible strike against Libya is a continuation of the previous strike against Iraq, and that something has to be done against all these racial strikes?

Saudi Arabia's 'Divisive' Regional Policy Viewed

PM2703173092 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 26 Mar 92 p 1

[Editorial: "The Policy of Intensifying Differences"]

[Text] U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney has confirmed that the U.S. forces in the Gulf will keep their land and naval bases in the region for many years to come. King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia has stated that his country will continue to improve relations with the fraternal and friendly states which supported what was right in the second Gulf war.

If Cheyney's statement about the continued presence of the U.S. forces is understandable in light of his country's ambition as a superpower to control the sources of oil, the words of the Saudi monarch, in this holy month of Ramadan, are difficult to understand because they deepen Arab differences as the Arab nation faces the threat of disintegration and collapse and as the world stands on the threshold of a new world order at the expense of the Arab nation, its wealth, and its future.

The Saudi Kingdom currently bases its political attitude toward the Arab states on the position that they took when foreign forces were invited to the Arabian Peninsula to drive the Iraqi forces out of Kuwait. It regards everyone who supported these forces as a friend and everyone who opposed them as an enemy. It believes that these divisive policies serve its interests. The facts, however, and the current international changes do not support that view at all.

The United States itself has noticeably begun to abandon these divisions and to revive its severed links with the states which were accused of opposing the U.S. position. King Husayn of Jordan has visited Washington and was accorded a worthy reception in the White House. President Bush addressed him as a dear friend. U.S. congressmen and businessmen are flowing into Sanaa and competing with their European and Japanese counterparts for hotel suites and rooms. Sudan is scoring major successes on the African Continent, dividing the ranks of the rebels in the South and consolidating its ties with the Horn of Africa states of Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya, Uganda, and Chad.

In other words, we can say that the world is developing and Arab policies are on the move, the only rigid one being that of Saudi Arabia which, we fear, may be left with no allies other than Kuwait, though we doubt the Kuwaiti Government's sincerity and loyalty to the Saudi family. Kuwait has demonstrated full loyalty to the United States, Britain, and France. The Saudi monarch has not been given credit for Kuwait's restoration to its amir and people except by some government officials who did so out of courtesy, without any enthusiasm, and only in response to Saudi media campaigns.

The Saudi Kingdom cannot continue to pursue such policies which divide the Arabs. It has no right to do so because first, it hosts the holiest Arab and Islamic shrines, and second, its historical role has been to unite, not to divide, the Arabs.

Obstinacy and persistence in erroneous policies may be acceptable from irresponsible individuals, but they cannot possibly be acceptable from leaders and kings placed by destiny in positions of historic responsibility.

What is most surprising is the continued restriction of the Kingdom's position, forcing it to become just another Gulf emirate without any effective part in Arab politics and without championing a sacred Arab cause—like that of Palestine in these crucial times—especially after exposing the mistake of supporting the Kuwaiti Government's actions and practices not only against the Arab residents of Kuwait but also against many Kuwaitis. This has turned Kuwait into the most hated state in the world with one of the worst records of human rights violations.

'Partial Reopening' of Iraq-Syrian Border

JN2903150792 Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic 30 Mar 92 p 4

[Text] Arab circles are taking interest in reports that the Syrian Government has strongly instructed its mass media not to attack Iraq at this stage. The decision was issued two weeks ago, and the Syrian mass media have since been observed to respect the instructions. More important is the position announced by President Hafiz al-Asad in front of journalists during his visit to Cairo, when he stressed that Syria and Egypt would not approve a new military strike against Iraq. He also said that supporting the UN resolutions stopped soon after Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait and that the situation was now different. President Mubarak said the same thing, though less clearly.

There have been reports about a partial reopening of the Iraqi-Syrian border, pointing out that large quantities of goods are being smuggled from Syria and Lebanon across the Iraqi border, after the competent Syrian authorities began looking the other way.

Iraqi diplomatic sources have said that Iraq was showing great flexibility in dealing with these issues and that the Iraqi trade minister met with the Syrian economy and foreign trade minister on the sidelines of a conference. The Iraqi oil minister and the Syrian oil and mineral resources minister also met in Cairo, but these meetings have not produced any positive results. Iraq is extending its hand to Syria and all the Arabs, Tariq 'Aziz said in Amman.

The question is: Will wise Arabs move to invest the results of the Syrian-Egyptian summit regarding developments in Iraq?

President Yasir 'Arafat, who is busy repairing the Arab situation destroyed by the Gulf disaster, has instructed his foreign minister, Faruq Qaddumi, to crystallize an Arab initiative, in which Morocco, Oman, and Jordan will participate, to make a breakthrough in the Syrian and Egyptian boycott of Iraq and to show Baghdad's welcome for the declared Syrian-Egyptian position.

Information obtained by AL-MUHARRIR signals a Jordanian eagerness to close the file of media campaigns and carefully work out a common ground, especially since many will sustain damage from ending the blockade against Iraq and will have no interest in any mediation by wise Arabs.

Palestinian Affairs

'Ashrawi Says U.S. Offers Peace Talks Invitation

JN2903154392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1445 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Interview with Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, by Sa'id Mu'addi carried within the "With the Events" program; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Has the Palestinian side received an invitation to attend the upcoming round of bilateral negotiations?

['Ashrawi] It was not a written invitation, but the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem has informed Faysal al-Husayni that the next round will take place in Washington on 27 April. The official invitation will be sent later.

[Mu'addi] Has the Palestinian side accepted the invitation in principle?

['Ashrawi] There has been no demand for acceptance or rejection. The consul knows that there will be a quadrapartite meeting to assess the previous round and to take a stand toward the upcoming round. There is interest, however, in the details of the invitation.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Hanan, reports said that the invitation extended to the concerned parties includes a provision that after the fifth round talks take place in Europe. What would you say if these reports were true?

['Ashrawi] The position that the Palestinians have taken since the Madrid talks remains unchanged. We have no objection to holding sessions or negotiations in Europe as long as the venue is neutral, it will not negatively affect Palestinian participation or the progress of the negotiations, and it provides services, facilities, and security arrangements for holding such a round. There is no objection to moving to Europe after progress is made in Washington.

[Mu'addi] Is there a specific agenda for the upcoming round of negotiations?

['Ashrawi] There is no new, specific agenda. What was discussed will be completed.

[Mu'addi] Thank you Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian side.

['Ashrawi] You are welcome.

Meets With Canadian Official

TA2903185092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Text] The Palestinians have been invited by the United States to attend another round of peace talks on April 27. Palestinian spokeswoman Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi said the invitation was relayed orally by the American consul general in Jerusalem.

This afternoon a Palestinian team met in Jerusalem with Michael Bell, a special adviser to the Canadian Ministry of External Affairs, on the Middle East peace talks. The multilateral working group on refugees is due to be held in Ottawa in May. Mark Weiss reports:

[Begin recording] [Weiss] Michael Bell has served as Canada's ambassador to Israel and Jordan and is now touring the Middle East to hear ideas on the refugee working group which the Canadians are hosting as their contribution to the multilateral talks. Bell described the meeting with the Palestinians as productive.

[Bell] And I must say that here we have had a very productive exchange of views, and it will be very useful to us in our efforts to organize a productive conference in May in Ottawa.

[Weiss] Palestinian spokeswoman Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi described the talks as a candid and friendly exploratory session. At the opening session of the multilateral talks in Moscow U.S. Secretary of State James Baker promised that there would be comprehensive Palestinian representation in at least the working groups on economic developments and refugees. According to 'Ashrawi, this means that both Palestinians from the territories and from the Palestinian diaspora will participate at the Ottawa talks.

Israel has threatened to boycott discussions if Palestinians from outside the territories are invited. I asked Hanan 'Ashrawi if there is any point in the refugee group convening if Israel refuses to show up.

['Ashrawi] Oh yes. I do not see why the refugee working group should be based on Israeli participation or lack of it. After all, Palestinian refugees are either in the occupied territories or in the adjoining Arab countries or some displaced all over the world, including Western countries. I do not think Israel has a direct role to play in the refugee working group except as being the cause of the Palestinian refugee problem.

[Weiss] If the question of Palestinian representation can be sorted out, the refugee working group is probably going to be the most difficult of all the multilateral committees. The Palestinians want a clear linkage between the refugee question and the bilaterals on the long-term political solution to the Arab Israeli conflict.

Michael Bell will meet with Prime Minister Shamir and Foreign Minister Levi before continuing on to Cairo. [end recording]

PLO Calls for U.S. Pressure on Israel

LD2903135492 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] PLO official spokesman Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman has asserted the importance of U.S. intervention to achieve progress in the Palestinian-Israeli peace talks, pointing out that without such intervention nothing will be achieved. The Palestinian official expressed the conviction that it is possible to bring pressure to bear on the Israelis to withdraw from the occupied territories and to recognize the Palestinian people's rights by stepping up the intifadah on one hand and pressure by the U.S. Administration on the other. He pointed out that the Palestinians' participation in these negotiations has borne fruit, asserted that the convening of the peace conference was in itself an important gain, and praised the ever-growing international support for the Palestinian people's rights.

The PLO official in charge of information criticized the attempt to link the Arab-Israelis negotiation with the upcoming elections in Israel, affirming that Yitzhaq Rabin is not in any way different from Yitzhaq Shamir.

Mr. Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman also discussed the topic of confederation with Jordan. He emphasized that this will not take place save between two independent states, and

he emphasized the need to remove the obstacle hindering the establishment of the confederation—the Israeli occupation.

Fatah Revolutionary Council Meets 21-25 Mar

LD2903212792 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Mar 92

["Text" of the statement issued by the Fatah Revolutionary Council after the session of its ordinary meetings held from 21 to 25 March; place and date not given]

[Text] The Fatah Revolutionary Council held a session of its ordinary meetings from 21 to 25 March coinciding with the anniversary of the immortal battles of Badr and al-Karamah. The Revolutionary Council opened its proceedings by standing and observing a minute's silence and then reading the opening verse of the Koran for the martyrs' souls.

After the Revolutionary Council endorsed its agenda, brother president Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] submitted a comprehensive report in which he dealt with the local, Arab, and international political situation and the Fatah Movement's internal state. This was followed by reports submitted by brother members of the Central Committee. Then there was a general debate on the reports in which many members of the Council took part.

As for the internal situation in the movement, the Council comprehensively reviewed the internal and organizational situation. Appropriate organizational decisions were made to push revolutionary action forward in all fields, as well as to develop the movement's structures, institutions, and departments so as to meet the requirements of the revolutionary and national struggle.

The Revolutionary Council took a long look at the state of the Palestinian national struggle, the facts pertaining to it, and its progress in all fields since the Israeli occupation.

The Revolutionary Council noted with reverence and admiration our struggle in the people's blessed intifadah. The Council noted the heroic battles in which the sons of our people are engaged inside the occupied territories, their heroic escalation of all forms of struggle, and their affirmation of the cohesion and integration of all our people's old and new political, diplomatic, economic, popular, and educational battles.

The national popular resistance with all its forms of escalation against the Israeli occupation forces and the gangs of armed settlers in the blaze of our blessed uprising which has entered with force and determination the year of triumph—its fifth year—and the struggle of our people wherever they are, have imposed Palestinian reality on the arrogant Israeli enemy. This historic event expresses the old and pure origin of the Palestinian people, their rights, and their existence. It has been achieved by the struggle of our sincere people through generations and years and is imbued with the brave uprising through the blood and sacrifices of thousands of sons of our people, the suffering of our wounded children, and the steadfastness and pride of several thousands of our brave prisoners in the jails of the enemy and in Zionist detention camps.

While it salutes the members of the Palestinian delegation from the sons of our people to those involved in the negotiations, the Revolutionary Council highly values the excellent performance of the Palestinian delegation despite the difficult and complex circumstances it faces in the field of the fierce political battle we are waging against the Israeli stubbornness and arrogance and despite the unjust conditions imposed by the current balance of forces.

The Revolutionary Council presents all support in all fields to our Palestinian delegation, which has proved its high aptitude and competence. This has strengthened the status of our people in international circles. It has led and will continue to lead every day to greater isolation of our Israeli enemy.

As it wages the political battle in the international meetings our Palestinian delegation, which is composed of the elite of the sons of our people, is side by side with the heroes of the uprising, the revolution, and the resistance.

After long discussions which lasted for four days, the Revolutionary Council affirms the following:

First: In the political field:

1. Our firm national aim is the liberation of the Arab and Palestinian territories, putting an end to the occupation, and enabling our people to exercise their right to self-determination, to return to their homeland, and to establish their independent Palestinian state on their national territory with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

2. The legal and legitimate basis for a political settlement in the Middle East is based on the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and to live in peace on their national territory as well as to exercise their inalienable rights on their land. It also affirms its adherence to the international legitimacy represented in international law, the provisions of the UN Charter, and the UN resolutions as a reference for the peace process.

3. The Council focuses on the fact that the implementation of resolutions means the withdrawal from all the Arab and Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 and that the implementation of this resolution is a commitment to the principle of land for peace.

4. Halting the settlements and the uprooting of the illegitimate and illegal settlements is the important step to continue the process of negotiations, because the continuation of the crime of confiscating land and building settlements to house the new Jewish immigrants seeks to undermine the peace process at its foundation.

Therefore, it should be known to all, particularly the cosponsors of the peace conference, that our stand vis-a-vis settlements is a stand dictated by the interests of our people and our nation. They cannot be allowed to continue because they destroy the peace process.

5. Granting guarantees for credits or financial assistance from any country in the world to the Zionist enemy to build settlements destroys the peace process and undermines stability in the entire Middle East. The U.S. Administration, which refuses to grant credit guarantees in order to stop settlements in our occupied territory, is called upon to successfully crown its efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East, to exercise more real pressure on Israel to withdraw from our occupied territories in implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy, to recognize the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people over their land, and to resume the dialogue between the U.S. Administration and the Palestinian Liberation Organization.

6. Jerusalem is the capital of our independent Palestinian state. It is the heart of our homeland. It is the first of the two Kiblas and the third mosque after the two holy mosques; the place of the Prophet Muhammad's journey, God's peace and prayers be upon him; and the birthplace of Jesus, peace be upon him. It is the historical, national, religious, and humanitarian pivot of our nation and our people. There is no alternative except to recognize this fact. There is no peace without the Arabism of Jerusalem to which applies, in accordance with international resolutions and legitimacy, all that applies to all Arab and Palestinian territories occupied by the Israeli enemy since 1967.

7. The Revolutionary Council of the Fatah Movement believes that by virtue of its nature and our understanding of it the transitional period is a time for transferring authority from the occupying Israeli side to the Palestinian side under international supervision in order to create objective conditions to enable our people to exercise their right to self-determination through democratic means and without occupation, oppression, settlement, or aggression. Therefore, the transitional period is merely a preliminary step on the road toward our people's practice of their right to return and to self-determination in their homeland and the founding of our Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

8. The Revolutionary Council expresses its pride at the special and distinguished relations which bind the fraternal Jordanian and Palestinian peoples. In this respect the Revolutionary Council affirms its total commitment to the resolutions of our successive national councils, which emphasize these special and distinguished relations and which will be based in the future on a confederal foundation between the two states of Jordan and Palestine and on the voluntary and free choice of the two fraternal peoples.

9. The Revolutionary Council affirms the importance of Arab coordination, particularly among the ring [Tawq] countries of Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and the PLO, in addition to the other fraternal Arab countries, in order to bolster the unified Arab stand and to face up to the Israeli obduracy and to develop the fraternal relations and consolidate the comprehensive Arab coordination within the framework of Arab solidarity.

This coordination acquires the utmost necessity in the current stage in order to prevent the Israeli enemy from taking every Arab side separately, to force the enemy to withdraw from occupied Palestinian and Arab territories, to attain the established national rights of the Palestinian people, and to protect both Arab and nationalist security as well as the future of Arab generations.

10. The Revolutionary Council salutes our Palestinian people and their struggling forces which stand side by side with our Fatah Movement for the liberation of Palestine and routing the Zionist occupation. We are on the road to our final objective of establishing an independent state.

Our national unity is the strong and firm foundation for the triumph of our people's will and the liberation of our land. In view of this the Revolutionary Council calls for the consolidation of ranks and the unification of energies and forces under the banners of the PLO and of the revolution and the uprising.

Today our people are fighting the battle of their destiny and independence on all fronts.

Stemming from our national constants and the decisions of our national councils, the Revolutionary Council calls on all forces and groups to rally around the PLO. It calls for the unity of the Palestinian representation and the bolstering of the uprising for the sake of achieving our great national objective of freedom and independence.

The Revolutionary Council stands with strength alongside our fraternal Iraqi people. It rejects any new attempt at aggression against Iraq and its steadfast people and demands the lifting of the embargo on the Iraqi people and their babies.

The Revolutionary Council stands with strength alongside Libya and its fraternal people against any attempt to detract from Libya, to strangle it, or any attempt to blockade it or detract from its sovereignty.

On this occasion, the Revolutionary Council salutes the people of South Africa and their forces who are struggling against apartheid and for the sake of their freedom, particularly the ANC [African National Congress] and the PAC [Pan-Africanist Congress]. The Council congratulates them on the results of the recent referendum held against apartheid and for the sake of the people of South Africa.

Finally, the Revolutionary Council salutes President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and the fraternal Tunisian people for their care and embrace of the PLO by favoring the latter even at their own expense. Greetings to the Tunisian president, government, and people.

On the domestic level, the internal situation of our leading movement—which is facing up to the vicious Zionist-imperialist conspiracy seeking to weaken and annihilate the movement's ability to carry out its role of leading the PLO, the revolution, the giant and mighty intifadah, and the struggle in its various forms—has made the Revolutionary Council take a long look at the need to consolidate the internal situation in its various dynamic organizational, military, and institutional fields so that our movement can assume the responsibility for the political battle.

The Revolutionary Council has taken the necessary measures to guarantee the hampering of the Zionist entity's attempts to weaken our movement and to enhance its ability to achieve and accumulate privileges. This is in addition to the ability to continue the jihad and the struggle in all fields and in all eventualities which might arise from the Zionist enemy's resorting to settlements, to impairing the peace process, and to damaging our movement's revolutionary vanguard which came into being to survive and to triumph on the path of grand sacrifices and because of the convoys of martyrs who paved the way with their pure blood for free and independent Palestine. As the Koran says: Some of them have fulfilled their vow by death, and some are still waiting; but they have not changed in the least.

Glory and immortality to our blessed martyrs and revolution until victory.

Supports Continued Peace Process

JN2803093992 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 28 Mar 92 p 26

[Text] Amman—At the end of its meetings in Tunis at dawn yesterday, the Fatah Revolutionary Council—which includes 120 members—declared its support for continuing the Middle East peace process. It stated, however, that the PLO must be a primary party in this process.

Khalid Mismar, a member of the Fatah Revolutionary Council, told AL-RA'Y that the Palestinian intifadah and the distinguished relations between Jordan and Palestine topped the agenda of the council's five-day meetings.

He added that the Council had discussed the internal and organizational situation of the Fatah movement as far as the Palestinian, Arab, and international arenas were concerned, as well as coordination efforts to unify positions on the peace process.

He said that the committee on the intifadah had convened several meetings at the end of which a number of important recommendations were approved.

He noted that a detailed political statement on the Council meetings is expected to be issued within 48 hours.

He emphasized that the PLO Central Council, the link between the Palestine National Council and the PLO Executive Committee, will convene in the Tunisian capital on 6 April.

Al-Husayni: Palestinians Executed Without Trial

LD2703223892 Riyadh SPA in English 1940 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] Tunis, March 27, SPA—Chairman of the Jerusalem-based Arab Studies Centre Faysal al-Husayni has accused Israeli authorities of intentionally executing Palestinian citizens without trial.

In a press conference held in Jerusalem on Thursday, al-Husayni said the Israeli Army special forces had killed 18 Palestinians since December 9, 1991.

Reports monitored in Tunis on Friday quoted al-Husayni as saying that the Israeli Army executes without trial those considered to have active participation in the intifadah, instead of arresting them.

Deploring this method, he pointed out that no person should be killed simply because the authorities are looking for him, even if he owns a gun.

He called for dissolving these special forces and halting execution without trial and voiced the need for immediately securing protection for the Palestinian people and forming an international committee to investigate the killing of 18 Palestinians. He also pointed out that such a crime does not only contradict Israeli laws, but also violates the Fourth Geneva Convention.

PLO Considers Moving Headquarters to Yemen

LD2703193392 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] In Rome, an Italian newspaper has said that the PLO is preparing to move to Yemen. The CORRIERE DELLA SERA newspaper reported that the PLO chairman recently made a visit to Yemen to discuss this change of location.

The newspaper cited unnamed Arab sources as saying that the PLO is facing great financial difficulties as a result of its stand during the Iraqi occupation of the State of Kuwait. The Italian newspaper reviewed Palestinian stands which, it said, provoked the resentment of the Tunisian Government. It also highlighted the organization's recent attempt to accuse Iran of taking part in the downing of a U.S. aircraft over Lockerbie, Scotland.

The CORRIERE DELLA SERA said that the Tunisian Government turned down a request from the PLO to treat 'Arafat's wife as the wife of a head of state.

The newspaper concluded its report by saying that the Tunisian Government had requested to be told in advance about the movements of PLO leaders in and out of Tunisia.

Algeria

Government Dissolves One-Fourth of Local Councils

LD3003061292 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Text] The Council of Government held a meeting today under the chairmanship of head of government Sid Ahmed Ghozali. The Council heard a report presented by the minister of interior and local communities on the situation prevailing at the local community level, because several people's municipal councils and people's provincial councils are experiencing serious perturbations in their day-to-day operations.

At the meeting the Council of Government approved the organizational texts which permit the suspension of duties of the elected candidates, dissolve the incapable councils, and appoint when necessary executive delegations with the same powers as the incapable people's municipal and provincial councils and which work with the same arrangements.

[Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic at 2300 GMT on 29 March, in a similar report, adds the following: "The executive delegations at the municipal level will be composed of three to five persons with the experience and moral values required to manage public resources. At the provincial level the delegations will be taken from the Directorate of Decentralized State Services."]

Council Hears Financial Reports

LD3003092392 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0700 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] In the homeland the Council of Government approved in its meeting yesterday the suspension of the duties of some of the elected candidates, the dissolution of the incapable people's municipal and provincial councils, and the appointment of executive delegations in their place with people's municipal powers.

The suspension and dissolution measure covers 397 municipalities of the total of 1,541, and 14 out of the total of 48 governorates. The executive delegations at the municipality level are composed of three to five persons who have experience and the required moral values to run public affairs, while at the wilaya level they are composed of the directors of noncentralized governmental services.

The Council of Government also listened to two reviews by the minister delegate for the budget on the financing of the economy and the nation's foreign currency status. It became obvious from the two reviews that the shouldering of inflation propositions over the transitional period to a market economy requires that the government impose austerity measures on budget spending, the treasury's operations, and to enhance the effectiveness of the latter's intervention.

As for the foreign financial situation up to 27 March, it transpired from the statement issued at the end of the Council of Government's meeting that the (?expenditure) reserve could be estimated at $590 million, while it was negative when the government was formed last June when it fell to a deficit of $890 million. The government announced that it will continue its efforts to reach a level of (?expenditure) reserve that would allow for an actual liberalization of foreign trade and the revitalization of the productive apparatus.

FIS 'Implicitly' Admits Attacks on Police

NC2903100192 Paris AFP in English 0929 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Text] Algiers, March 29 (AFP)—Two members of the Algerian Republican Guard mounted regiment were killed in an attack by Islamic fundamentalists near Algiers airport early on Saturday, press reports said Sunday.

Quoting witnesses, the daily ALGER-REPUBLICAIN said a soldier and warrant officer were killed as they were loading sacks of fodder for horses at a government warehouse.

The attackers stole the soldiers' weapons and fled in a private car, the paper said.

The attack was the second against members of the security forces within 48 hours in the Algiers region.

On Thursday, fundamentalists forced their way through a road block on the outskirts of the capital and swapped gunfire for nearly an hour with the police. Three of the attackers were arrested.

According to accounts not confirmed by official sources, the attackers earlier killed two police motorcyclists who gave chase to their car.

Late on Saturday, the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) implicitly admitted that its supporters had carried out attacks on the security forces which have left 38 soldiers and police dead since January.

In a statement delivered to AFP and signed by Abderazzak Radjam, the FIS information chief who is in hiding, the Islamic movement said it had "proposed dialogue" but the authorities had responded with "official violence."

"This is the reason why the children of the people (the FIS term for its supporters) with no orders from anybody, resorted to methods other than dialogue to achieve victory for their religion and restore the people's right to freely choose its leaders," the statement said.

According to an official count, 31 members of the security forces were killed and 144 others injured in clashes with fundamentalists in January and February.

This does not include five policemen murdered in March or the two latest slayings on Saturday.

The FIS said many of its militants had been "savagely" tortured during police interrogation. It said the real number of Islamic militants detained at camps in the Sahara was far higher than the official figure of 7,000. The FIS said some 30,000 people were detained there.

Attackers Wound Blida Policeman

LD2803100792 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0700 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Text] Once again police were targets of an attack with firearms. A police inspector was shot at yesterday evening and wounded in the neck, near Djillali Bounaama District in Blida. The policeman was attacked while in his car with his son.

Police sources say that the two attackers have been identified and are now being sought.

Detainees Released From Southern Security Centers

LD2703172592 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] Authoritative sources stated today that a number of detainees have been released from the security detention centers in the south of the country. The sources did not, however, give the number of those released or name the centers concerned. It is rumored that the detainees had been held in the Ouargla detention center.

Egypt

Libya's al-Kharrubi, al-Bishari Arrive for Talks

NC2803172492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1705 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] Cairo, 28 Mar (MENA)—Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi, member of the Revolution Command Council in the Libyan Jamahiriyah, arrived in Cairo tonight, carrying a message from Libyan revolution leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to President Husni Mubarak.

Ibrahim al-Bishari, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation—or foreign minister—arrived on the same plane.

Al-Bishari stated upon their arrival that the message Colonel al-Kharrubi is carrying comes at an important time and within the framework of the regular consultations between the Egyptian and Libyan leadership.

On the new proposals submitted by 'Ali al-Turayki, Libya's permanent delegate to the Arab League, al-Bishari said that these proposals are practical and include a peaceful, acceptable, and honorable way out for all the parties to the conflict, and that the Arab League's seven-member committee is now discussing them.

Confer With 'Amr Musa

NC2803222392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2157 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met this evening with Ibrahim al-Bishari, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation, who arrived in Cairo earlier today, accompanied by Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi.

They discussed the developments and efforts being exerted to find a solution to the conflict between Libya and the three Western countries—the United States, Britain, and France.

Dr. 'Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, and 'Ali al-Turayki, Libya's permanent delegate to the Arab League, also attended the meeting.

'Confidence' Expressed in Arab Committee

NC2903060592 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa held a meeting with Ibrahim al-Bishari, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation, which lasted until the early hours this morning.

Al-Bishari said that this meeting comes within the framework of discussion with the Egyptian brothers. He said: Since the eruption of the crisis with the United States, Britain, and France, Libya has been coordinating with Egypt to deal peacefully with this situation. He affirmed that President Husni Mubarak and officials in Egypt have played an important role in protecting the Libyan people from any harm as a result of this crisis.

He added that Libya greatly appreciates President Mubarak's efforts, and that brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi appreciates this fraternal stand. He said: I have come to Cairo to discuss practical solutions, and we discussed the activities of the seven-member committee. He affirmed that the committee did not raise the topic of handing over the two suspects during its visit to Libya, and did not apply any pressure on his country. He pointed out that Libya has affirmed its confidence in the committee, and that the committee continues to seek peaceful solutions.

Al-Bishari said: The committee is trying to convince the Security Council to postpone its resolution, and look for a peaceful solution. He pointed out that Libya has resorted to the International Court of Justice, and that it is committed to implementing the court's verdict.

Al-Bishari Denial Welcomed

NC2703120692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1117 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] Cairo, 27 Mar (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa expressed his satisfaction with Libyan Foreign Minister Ibrahim al-Bishari's denial of reports on a request by the Arab League seven-member committee to hand over the two Libyan citizens.

In a statement today, Musa said that this denial came in the nick of time, just before these inaccurate reports were about to cast a shadow on the committee's ability to continue its work.

Last night the foreign minister summoned Mr. al-Turayki, Libya's representative to the Arab League, immediately after the latter arrived in Cairo, and expressed his great disappointment with and the negative impact of the report by the Libyan news agency JANA in this regard. He said that what the news agency reported is totally untrue, and that he is holding contacts to clarify the truth of the matter.

MENA has learned that Musa informed al-Turayki of the need to publicize the facts behind the circumstances of the seven-member committee's missions to Tripoli, to prepare the appropriate atmosphere for it to continue its efforts.

It is worth noting here that the Libyan foreign minister's denial stated that the committee did not ask Libya to hand over the citizens, contrary to what was reported by some sources. Libya could not reject a request that was not made in the first place. Moreover, the committee did not apply any pressure in talks with Libya. The committee was honest in its efforts and reports to the contrary are absolutely untrue.

Libyan Delegation Meets Mubarak

NC2903104492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1025 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Text] Cairo, 29 Mar (MENA)—Today, President Husni Mubarak received a Libyan delegation headed by Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi, the envoy of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution.

The delegation includes Ibrahim al-Bishari, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation; Dr. 'Ali al-Turayki, Libya's representative to the Arab League; Ahmad Qadhdhaf al-Damm, general coordinator for Egyptian-Libyan relations; and Ahmad Bin-Khayyal, head of the Arab Affairs Department at the Libyan General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation.

Conveys al-Qadhdhafi Message

NC2903120892 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1146 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Text] Cairo, 29 Mar (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received a message from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, today. Ibrahim al-Bishari, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation, said that Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi handed the message to Mubarak during the president's meeting with a visiting Libyan delegation.

Al-Bishari added that the meeting involved a very profound and frank discussion of the crisis between Libya and three Western countries—the United States, the United Kingdom, and France.

'Amr Musa Comments on Meeting

NC2903123592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1110 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Text] Cairo, 29 Mar (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa clarified that discussions today between President Mubarak and the Libyan delegation currently visiting Cairo focused on new Libyan proposals, and what could be undertaken within the framework of Security Council proposals and the known elements of the current Libyan-Western crisis.

'Amr Musa's statement came after the meeting between President Mubarak and the Libyan delegation, led by Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi, Libyan revolution leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's envoy.

Regarding whether the new Libyan proposals could lead to a political solution of the Libyan-Western crisis, Foreign Minister Musa said that the crisis has reached a very sensitive and crucial point: I do not know if there is any initiative at this point that could halt developments at a given stage.

Musa added: We will continue to try until the very last moment, because all we want to do is protect our brothers in Libya. At the same time, we wish to respect international legitimacy, because as Arab countries and people, we function within the framework of international legitimacy and respect for all the principles of the United Nations.

'Amr Musa said that the seven-member Arab committee will hold a meeting at the permanent representative level this afternoon in Cairo, chaired by the Arab League secretary general, to discuss the Libyan proposals.

He added that after studying these proposals, the committee will decide what can be done.

It is worth noting here that during its emergency session in Cairo last Sunday, the Arab League Council decided to form this committee to hold the necessary contacts with all parties concerned to find a peaceful solution to the Libyan-Western crisis. The crisis came about after

the United States and Britain accused two Libyan citizens of being involved in blowing up a U.S. civilian airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland in 1988, and demanded that the two men be handed over for trial in the United States or Britain.

Musa affirmed that Egypt is holding continuous contacts with the various sides on this problem, and with the United Nations. He said these contacts have not stopped at all. He added that from now until Monday, which is a very short period of time, Egypt will continue its contacts in an attempt to realize some progress.

Musa refused to respond to a question on an evaluation of the new Libyan proposals. He said: I cannot evaluate these proposals, since they will be discussed this evening at the Arab League.

Regarding whether the committee has the right to introduce any amendments to the Libyan initiative, Musa said the members of the committee can discuss their opinions on the initiative with the Libyan brothers. They will do so if some members of the committee, the whole committee, or the Arab League secretary general have any proposals on amending the initiative.

He said that much depends on how the issue is presented.

Responding to a question on whether he is optimistic about reaching a peaceful solution to the Libya-Western problem, Musa said: We have just received some new Libya proposals, not a new Libyan initiative.

He adds: I cannot say if I am optimistic or not. I see that the problems are difficult, however, and we are not moving toward a solution in the appropriate way.

In statements he made after the Libyan delegation met with President Mubarak, Ibrahim al-Bishari, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation (foreign minister), said: We had the honor of meeting President Mubarak today.

He pointed out that discussions of the current Libyan-Western crisis were frank and serious.

Al-Bishari said: We expressed our confidence in Egypt and our Arab brothers to President Mubarak, and agreed to continue discussions.

Libyans Depart

NC2903205292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2030 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Excerpt] Cairo, 29 Mar (MENA)—The Libyan delegation led by Mustafa al-Kharrubi, Libyan Revolution Command Council member, left Cairo this evening following a one-day visit to Egypt. [passage omitted]

Russian Envoy Conveys Yeltsin Message to Mubarak

NC2803093092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0840 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] Cairo, 28 Mar (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received a message from Russian President Boris Yeltsin on issues of common concern. Russian Ambassador to Egypt Vladimir Polyakov gave President Mubarak the message during a meeting today.

Speaking after the meeting, Ambassador Polyakov said that the message emphasizes that Russia is ready to cooperate with Egypt in all fields. Polyakov added that he and President Mubarak discussed issues of common concern and the Middle East, noting that his government instructed him to review all current topics with President Mubarak. He added that Presidents Mubarak and Yeltsin greatly appreciate the nations' bilateral relations, making special reference to the major role Egypt is playing at the international level in general and in the Arab region in particular. He noted that Egypt is the base of stability in the Arab world.

Asked about Russia's position on the Libyan-West crisis, the Russian ambassador said: We discussed this topic with President Mubarak, and Russia is ready to help resolve this issue on the basis of international law or UN resolutions. He noted the role of Egyptian diplomacy in seeking a peaceful solution to the Libyan issue.

When asked if the two presidents will exchange visits, Polyakov said that the possibility does exist, adding that Russia would welcome President Mubarak any time and that the Russian people and Russian president would like Mubarak to visit Russia. He added that the same is true of President Yeltsin's visit to Egypt.

EC Delegation Leaves Cairo for Gaza Strip

NC2703135892 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] An EC delegation concerned with the peace talks left Cairo for the occupied Gaza Strip today, as part of its tour of Middle Eastern countries to contribute to regional peace efforts.

The delegation will visit the occupied Arab territories, Israel, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon to hold direct contacts with parties to the peace process.

The delegation met yesterday with Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Arab League secretary general; Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa; and Dr. 'Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs.

Libya

Western Powers Seek 'To Dismantle' UN

LD2803085192 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0800 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] Tripoli, 28 Mar (JANA)—JANA's political editor commented on the insistence by the governments of the United States, Great Britain, and France that Libya hand over two of its subjects [r'ayaha]. He said: Even if we assume that Libya hands over the two suspects to the United States and Great Britain, these states will insist on exploiting [taskhir] the so-called Security Council to pass resolutions deleterious to Libya, its economy, and its sovereignty.

The editor went on to say: If this shows us anything, it is that these states want to dismantle the United Nations, so that they can operate in the world without it. This horrifies the people of the world and prompts them to set up one or several fronts to resist this tyranny.

Moreover, these three states—the United States, Britain, and France—want to address this insult to the members of the Security Council. The proverb that best applies to these states is: "It is a goat even if it flies."

Communique Marks Expulsion of British Forces

LD2803200192 Tripoli JANA in English 1636 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] Tripoli, al-Rabi' [March] 28, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The Standing Secretariat of the Arab People's Congress issued a communique on the occasion of the 22nd anniversary of the eviction of British forces and bases from the Libyan Arab territory.

The secretariat lauded this occasion realised thanks to the Great Al Fatih revolution at the level of the Libyan of Arab will and greater homeland from colonial domination. [sentence as received]

The secretariat said "at a time the Arab masses are participating with the Libyan Arab people in celebrating this occasion, the Great Jamahiriyah is being subjected to a new colonial campaign by America and Britain in a bid to undermine the liberation efforts which the great Al Fatih revolution accomplished including the eviction of the British and American forces and bases from the territory of the Great Jamahiriyah. [no closing quotation marks as received]

Sudan

Armed Forces Hold 'Initiative' in South

EA2803130792 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] Major General Muhammad 'Abdullah Uwaydah, official armed forces spokesman and chairman of the Security and Defense Committee of the Transitional National Assembly, has explained that peace will be achieved in the South whether the rebel movement is split or united. He said that the movement was not serious about dialogue to achieve peace.

Maj. Gen. 'Uwaydah emphasized that the armed forces were capable of securing the country and that they would not permit the rebels and their stooges to harm peaceful towns and villages in the South. He stated that the armed forces now held the reins of initiative in the operational areas. He noted that the security situation in southern Kurdufan was reassuring and that the Armed and Popular Defense Forces were in control of the situation. He declared that they had won great victories and that the rebellion would soon end.

SPLA: Libya, Iran, Ethiopia Send Combat Forces

AB2603171092 Paris AFP in English 1545 GMT 26 Mar 92

[By David Chazan]

[Text] Nairobi, March 26 (AFP)—Sudanese rebels on Thursday [26 March] accused Libya, Iran and Ethiopia of sending forces to fight with government troops who have launched their biggest offensive in nine years of civil war.

In Khartoum, Sudanese junta leader 'Umar al-Bashir said the southern rebels had been routed and were on the run.

But Justin Arop, who represents the southern movement's interests in Nairobi, denied the claim, saying the government forces had launched "a massive invasion of SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army]-held territories" but were meeting stiff resistance. Diplomats in the region said the rebels had been severely weakened by a split in their ranks which emerged last August. One faction now accuses the other of helping the government.

Arop, an official of the political wing of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), said Iran had sent at least 2,000 soldiers and military advisors to help Sudan's Islamic fundamentalist government flush the mainly Christian rebels out of the South. "Libya has bombed civil and military targets," Arop told AFP. He said a Libyan warplane had bombed the southern Sudanese town of Kapoeta, where the rebels have their administrative headquarters, earlier this month, and had also bombed SPLA troops on the front line, without specifying where.

The accusations followed reports from Sudanese opposition sources that Iran and Libya were providing military support for the current offensive. Diplomats and aid workers in the region have described the government push as the biggest since the rebels started fighting to free the predominantly Christian and animist South from Islamic domination by the Arabic-speaking North in 1983.

The Army claimed a major victory with the recapture of the rebel-held town of Pochala, on the Ethiopian border, this month. Diplomats said the attack was launched from Ethiopian territory. The rebels said Ethiopian government troops had helped to retake Pochala and were now occupying the town. The SPLA was expelled from its bases in Ethiopia after Ethiopian dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam was ousted last year.

Arop said thousands of government troops had also started advancing south on at least four fronts this month, with some forces coming south by boat along the Nile, and others moving by road. Rebels who remained loyal to the SPLA's founder John Garang have accused the breakaway faction, led by Riak Mashar, of cooperating with the government and allowing its troops to pass unhindered through their territory. General al-Bashir said earlier this week that Kenya had agreed to withdraw support for the rebels. Al-Bashir said Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi, who stopped briefly in Khartoum on his way home from London last week, had assured him that he had sacked a Kenyan Foreign Ministry official who had coordinated support for the SPLA.

Al-Bashir said Kenya and Sudan would sign a nonaggression pact in April, but Kenyan officials were not available to comment. Officials of the SPLA's relief wing based in Kenya said they were not aware of any change in Kenya's position. Diplomats said the rebels apparently intended to break the rebel siege around the southern government garrison of Juba and reoccupy main towns in the vast southern swamps before the rainy season begins next month. The government has traditionally gained ground during the dry season, only to be pushed north during the long rains when much of the south turns into marshland. "But this year the rebels are weaker than ever before," a senior Western diplomat said.

Government Warns Red Cross Not To Help SPLA

EA2803205092 Khartoum SUNA in English 1645 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] Khartoum, 28 Mar (SUNA)—The Sudanese Government has warned the ICRC [International Committee of the Red Cross] to abide by the accords and respect the sovereignty of the country in order to continue its presence in the Sudan.

The Sudanese Foreign Ministry Saturday issued a statement accusing the ICRC of dealing with and supporting the rebel SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] and thus violating the agreement signed by the Sudan and the ICRC. The statement enumerated several incidents as examples of violating the letter and spirit of the agreement by the international organization.

It said the ICRC brought in and assembled a river boat at Bor region (rebel-held) without permission by the government. Despite objections by Sudanese officials, the ICRC kept the boat in the area and, moreover, handed the boat over to the SPLA in defiance of the Sudanese Government's request to take away the boat, which, the Foreign Ministry said, had never made trips in neutral water but restricted its operations to the rebel-controlled areas.

A second charge made by the Sudanese Foreign Office against the ICRC was delivery by the organization of a number of trucks to the rebels in Yirol area in Bahr al-Ghazal state of south Sudan.

The statement went on to say that an ICRC official proved to have been involved in activity for the interest of the rebellion movement by recruiting children as fighters with the rebel movement. The Foreign Ministry said the ICRC itself admitted to this charge.

The statement raised as a fourth charge the landing of ICRC planes in unauthorized areas and deploying ground service teams in rebel-controlled areas in south Sudan.

The rebels who were captured in Darfur state testified that the SPLA received aid by ICRC officials in Equatoria state in south Sudan, the Foreign Ministry said in its fifth charge against the ICRC.

The sixth and last charge made by the Foreign Ministry against the ICRC was the presence of ICRC workers in Pochala without permission by the government.

Despite their evident involvement in antigovernment [activities], the statement said, the ICRC workers were released immediately by government in a way that amazed the organization's senior officials in Geneva.

According to the statement the Sudan was not the first country to suffer from the undisciplined behavior of the ICRC, for a number of countries, [such] as Mozambique, Ethiopia and Iran, have tended to close down the ICRC offices in their lands and to expel its workers. "Therefore, based on the said evidences and proofs, the government warns the ICRC to abide by the items and spirit of the agreement that it had signed with the Sudan and to respect the sovereignty of the country so as to ensure continuation of its humanitarian activity in the Sudan," the statement said.

The statement further affirmed Sudan's readiness for full cooperation with the international community and the voluntary organizations in the sphere of humanitarian action.

National Transitional Assembly Leader Dies

EA2903214092 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1515 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Summary] Khartoum, 29 Mar (SUNA)—Muhammad Ziyadah Hammur, the leader [ra'id] of the National Transitional Assembly, died suddenly this morning. His funeral took place at noon today with the funeral procession being led by Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and the Council of Ministers.

Saudi Arabia

Source Denies Patriot Missiles Sold to China

LD2903222392 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Text] An official source at the Defense and Aviation Ministry commented in a statement to SPA today on reports published by some news agencies that the U.S. Defense Department is convinced that it is the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and not Israel which transferred Patriot missile technology to China.

The source stated that the report is fundamentally fabricated and said: We are satisfied with U.S. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney's statement to the press today in which he categorically denied there is any truth in that fabricated report.

Fahd Discusses Elections, Reforms, Jordanian Ties

LD2803202792 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1430 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 28 Mar (SPA)—King Fahd-Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, has emphasized that the concerns of the Saudi citizen are always on the mind of his leadership and that the Saudi people are aware that their leadership is not distant from their concerns, desires, and aspirations. In this context he noted his directives which were expressed by the honorable Council of Ministers at its recent meeting through its order stipulating the lowering of the charges on some primary services.

In a comprehensive interview published in today's issue of the Kuwaiti (daily) AL-SIYASAH, the king said that the three laws of government, shura, and regions were prepared from the original source, namely the Islamic shari'ah, and that they reflect the reality of the people, the society of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and all its traditions and norms, the primary of which is the Islamic shari'ah with its purity and progressiveness. [passage omitted]

The following is the text of the interview with the custodian of the two holy mosques by Ahmad Jarallah, the newspaper's chief editor, as reported by SPA:

[Jarallah] Custodian of the two holy mosques, how do you view what is happening now in the Arab region?

[Fahd] The contradiction experienced by the Arab nation constantly distresses one. I am afraid that it is being said that this nation has agreed to disagree, and I am afraid that this saying has affected us. [passage omitted] The Arab world is still experiencing the calamity of division caused by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Any Arab official honestly exercising his responsibilities is bound to be experiencing the deep effect (of the invasion) on the Arab situation. There are big opportunities open to these states, and all they need is for their leaderships to show good intentions and to lead their peoples in accordance with the principles of their religion and Arab morality.

[Jarallah] Custodian of the two holy mosques, you said that the presence of legitimacy in Kuwait has influenced many stands.

[Fahd] The Kuwaiti legitimacy (referring to legitimate government) was wise when it did not provide an opportunity for the invader to get the better of it. That was one of the invader's demands. The invader wanted to destroy Kuwaiti legitimacy and then to turn on the Kuwaiti people and homeland in order to humiliate the people, plunder the wealth of the homeland, and for that country to become the first part of his expansionist plan, which was repressed. [passage omitted]

[Jarallah] Sir, custodian of the two holy mosques, what about the new laws of government which were announced in your country and ours, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It is said that they were formulated late and were promulgated under international pressure.

[Fahd] These laws could have come earlier, and I spoke about them to the Saudi people. But the events in the region led to the delay in issuing them. They stem from the Islamic shari'ah, which is the original source.

To say that they are the result of pressure from this or that side is nothing but hearsay and has no basis in truth or reality. Those who say such a thing know nothing about the reality and the genuineness of the Saudi people and know nothing about the true character of this society and its structure, roots, and traditions. The Saudi people are capable of respecting their traditions and conventions and Arab roots.

These laws have been announced and we should make a deep study of the contents of the cables sent by the leaders of world countries. Then we would realize that these leaders do not conceal their appreciation for these laws and the fact that these reflect the reality of our people and our society with all their traditions and conventions, above all their Islamic shari'ah, with all its purity and progress.

The contents of these cables bring us face to face with an important fact—namely, that Saudi Arabia and its people are not things which learn lessons or submit to pressure from anyone [as received]. This is because we respect the affairs of others and do not interfere in them; likewise, we expect others to respect us as we respect them. The three laws stem from a Saudi visualization and from our true traditions.

[Jarallah] Sir, custodian of the two holy mosques, how were these laws conceived in the preparation period?

[Fahd] These laws were drawn up in accordance with the honorable Islamic shari'ah. We have in the Kingdom traits from which we do not deviate. [passage omitted]

[Jarallah] Sir, custodian of the two holy mosques, what do you think of the democratic systems which prevail in the world? Is the system of free elections suitable for our peoples here?

[Fahd] The prevailing democratic system in the world is not suitable for us in this region, for our peoples' composition and traits are different from the traits of that world. We cannot import the way in which other peoples deal (with their own affairs) in order to apply it on our people; we have our own Muslim faith which is a complete system and a complete religion.

Elections do not fall within the sphere of the Muslim religion, which believes in the al-shurah (consultative) system and openness between the ruler and his subjects and which makes whoever is in charge fully answerable to his people. This does not mean, however, that we should not benefit from the realities brought about by social transformations and any other developments. Nevertheless, any change must (conform) with the teachings of our Muslim faith. Free elections are not suitable for our country, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Our country is a special one, a matter which one should understand; it is the country which is in charge of the two holy mosques on behalf of the Islamic world. This is a country whose political life has been characterized by stability and safety, and by the application of the teachings of Islam. It is therefore a special country.

[Jarallah] Sir, custodian of the two holy mosques, you have asserted that free elections are not suitable for your country and the fact that democracy as it is understood in the West also is not suitable.

[Fahd] Of course, we do not interfere in others' internal affairs; the Kingdom has been from the outset eager not to interfere in others' (internal affairs) and in their political practices. [passage omitted]

Of course, in my opinion Western democracies could be suitable in their countries but they are not suitable for all the peoples of the world. As I have said, there is no harm in benefiting from some of the good aspects on the condition that those do not disagree with the teachings of our religion.

[Jarallah] Sir, custodian of the two holy mosques, do you think that this system [Fahd's system of government] is suitable for other countries in the region and that they can benefit from it?

[Fahd] The system of government here has become public and anyone can observe its effectiveness. [passage omitted]

[Jarallah] Sir, custodian of the two holy mosques, how do you conceive the reality of the Saudi people after the financial leap which it has enjoyed during recent years?

[Fahd] If we go back a little in history, in particular to the beginning when the deceased King 'Abd-al-'Aziz ruled this country, we find that reality was a humble life surviving on subsistence, self-esteem for a weapon, confidence that God's law will prevail, and great pride caring for the two holy mosques.

[Jarallah] Sir, custodian of the two holy mosques, what was the financial situation during the Kuwait liberation war and how did you deal with the financing of this war?

[Fahd] The nine months of the war were not easy months. Visitors to the Kingdom thought that the Saudi Government was about to take control of the banks, financial institutions, and the sources of provisions and food. But nothing of this sort happened. We provided the funds necessary for the war after we had made up our minds and decided that the decision to repulse the aggression was irrevocable. The necessary funds were provided without any interference, not even in respect of transfers abroad or in matters of imports and exports. Everything proceeded as normal, and we know of cases in which funds were actually sent abroad without being stopped.

In my opinion the Kingdom is an important economic state. It suffices for us to read what foreign observers write about it. The war has ended and the private sector funds have returned [to the Kingdom] in greater quantitites than what was sent abroad during the nine months of war. The funds have returned, and I recall that during the war many Saudis offered to finance the state, but we told them that should we need any money we would issue bonds. [passage omitted]

The war has ended without us resorting to any extraordinary economic measures. Those foreign political leaders who visited the Kingdom have told us that they followed with admiration the Saudi Kingdom's measures and its people's response to it.

[Jarallah] Sir, custodian of the two holy mosques, there are some people who claim that the Kingdom has been helping the fundamentalist movement in the Islamic world.

[Fahd] We do not interfere in anyone else's internal affairs. Similarly, we do not allow anybody to interfere in our internal affairs. We for our part do not allow ourselves to help fundamentalist or nonfundamentalist movements in any other country. Be assured that we do not do this because it is against our principles. The Kingdom has, however, stood by the Afghan mujahidin, which is not a secret, because we consider their case different from anything else.

[Jarallah] Sir, custodian of the two holy mosques, could the Kingdom be the scene of any religious extremism?

[Fahd] The situation in the Kingdom is different; the likelihood of such extremism in rather remote in our country. Our Muslim religion is clear about what is forbidden and what is not. As I have already asserted, our people are quite different, and it is not possible that their psyche is susceptible to any sort of extremism because of their adherence to their religion and its true

teachings. Our demographic landscape cannot be a fertile ground for any instability and insecurity, for our country's history is built on open relations between the ruler and his subjects in accordance with the teachings of the Islamic faith.

[Jarallah] Sir, custodian of the two holy mosques, how do you see the military reality between the Gulf countries after what has taken place and after Kuwait has been freed?

[Fahd] There are those who talk about a unified Gulf army which would include the armies of the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] countries as the nucleus of this "Peninsula Shield" army. That is alright. The most important (thing) is for these countries to agree on the details of that (issue) and its origins. In my view there is another important point: the coordination of arms so that the military schools in the Gulf countries become unified in training and that the types of weapons and equipment become very close to one another, if not unified. That is, arms must be procured in accordance with preconceived coordination. There is no harm in these armies having a joint command under the umbrella of the GCC General Secretariat. A thing like this is good in which the GCC countries find themselves facing the formula of a unified army, even if it is not located in one place. [passage omitted]

[Jarallah] Sir, custodian of the two holy mosques, a final question. Are you satisfied that Saudi spending throughout the past years has been justified?

[Fahd] Yes, the expenditure has been justified. This spending has led to the distribution of wealth, and I hope it will be a just distribution. Private wealth has become strong and (capable of) moving in the local and international markets in a good, respectable, and fruitful way. The basic structure has been completed although (we) are improving on it every now and then. [passage omitted]

[Jarallah] Sir, custodian of the two holy mosques, once more a final question. Are the laws of government which you proclaimed rigid or are they open to modification?

[Fahd] They are open for development and modification if we deem that necessary. Let us first apply them and discover their surplus or shortcomings and negative and positive aspects. Yes, they are capable of development and modification. The important thing is that that must come within the framework of our magnanimous Islamic doctrine.

[Jarallah] Sir, custodian of the two holy mosques, for the third time a the final question. The Saudi citizen was surprised by your measures to reduce the prices of gasoline, electricity, water, and telephone service. How was this achieved?

[Fahd] The worries of the Saudi citizen have always been in the leadership's mind and we wanted these measures to be effected early, except that the suitable measure comes at the suitable time because there are considerations which should be taken into account. Our people appreciate the circumstances of these considerations and appreciate their importance. The first consideration is for the measure to be in harmony with the budget, in particular when this decision has financial costs which the state has to endure. [passage omitted]

[Jarallah] Sir, custodian of the two holy mosques, will these measures have any effect on the government's financial expenditure?

[Fahd] All have been studied, and the present generation of our people also has the right to enjoy its country's boom, progress, and prosperity. [passage omitted]

Saddam Husayn Chairs RCC Meeting 29 Mar

JN2903153892 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1530 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Text] President Saddam Husayn today chaired a meeting of the Revolution Command Council [RCC].

The meeting was attended by Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi, head of the Presidential Office.

Tariq 'Aziz Warns UNSC of U.S.-British 'Games'

JN2903123192 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Text] Commenting on the position adopted by the [UN] Security Council [UNSC] during its periodic review of the economic blockade—that of not changing its stand vis-a-vis the unjust blockade imposed by Iraq—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz has made the following statement to INA:

This position adopted by the Security Council is further evidence of U.S.-British control over the Council's trends and resolutions. The Security Council was meant to show evidence of goodwill after the Iraqi delegation affirmed during its recent visit to New York Iraq's cooperation with the Council and proved this through tangible steps. The Council, however, which should have responded to Iraq's position, has not changed its position. It is obvious that this came about as a result of the U.S. and British stand, a matter which should be condemned. The Council members should be in harmony with themselves and with the resolutions that they adopt; they should face the U.S.-British influence on the Council's trends through the logic of international law, the resolutions issued by the Council itself, and the criteria of justice. The Council members should not allow the games of U.S.-British policy to control the Council's resolutions and trends.

Spokesman Rebuts Gates Statement on Scud Missiles

JN2703194992 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1935 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Mar (INA)—An official spokesman today criticized statements made by U.S. CIA Director Robert Gates contending that Iraq still possesses hundreds of Scud missiles and nuclear, chemical, and biological facilities.

These claims come only from one side, the U.S. Administration, and are politically motivated, the spokesman added.

The implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 687 is a matter for the UN inspection teams to pursue, and their reports to the Council belie the misleading assertions made by the United States, he said.

UN Team Extends Stay; No Comment on Gates Remark

NC2803183192 Paris AFP in English 1805 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] Baghdad, March 28 (AFP)—U.N. ballistics weapons experts will be extending their stay here by one day to visit another site, team leader Derek Boothby said Saturday.

Boothby told reporters that his 35-member team earlier Saturday visited a site in Baghdad for the first time since they arrived here eight days ago but found nothing suspicious to report.

"Nothing that was relevant to Resolution 687 was found," Boothby, a Briton, said in reference to a U.N. Security [Council] resolution calling for the elimination of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

He said the team would be leaving Iraq on Monday instead of Sunday to carry out one more inspection tour at a site "in order to ... do something we have not done before." He did not elaborate, nor would he identify the location.

But Boothby stressed that Sunday's expected visit would be part of the "regular program of inspection" during which his team has confirmed Iraqi elimination of ballistic missiles, including Scuds used during the Gulf war.

The team has also confirmed the destruction of nine components used in the manufacture of ballistic weapons.

"We may well on the way to the airport ... see one final place where the Iraqis have said they have missiles and equipment excavated for us to see," Boothby said.

Boothby refused to comment on statements made Friday by CIA director Robert Gates who charged that Baghdad still had hundreds of Scud missiles in its arsenal as well as secret nuclear equipment.

"As far as we are concerned Iraq announced ... (that) they destroyed a number of missiles last July ... and they have shown us the evidence," Boothby said. "We have not seen them all but we have seen a significant proportion of the number they have excavated," he said.

"Iraq says it has no further missiles of that nature, no further ballistic missiles (like) the Scud ... That is as far as I can comment," Boothby added.

But he said that his mission was "in no way the end of the road", confirming in reply to a reporter's question, that "buildings specifically designed for use for ballistic missile production" as well as equipment were yet to be eliminated. Until that is done, Boothby said, the United Nations cannot speak of satisfaction.

"No, we are not at that stage yet."

Team Leader: Mission "Very Fruitful"

NC2903185392 Paris AFP in English 1837 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Text] Baghdad, March 29 (AFP)—The head of a UN team said Sunday his mission here was "very fruitful" because key elements of Iraq's ballistic missile program and repair facilities had been destroyed. But team leader Derek Boothby of Britain said the work of inspecting and destroying Iraq's potential to make Scud and other ballistic missiles would still take "quite some months."

"We have destroyed some of the primary and key items established by the executive chairman of the special commission for the destruction of Iraqi's ballistic missiles and repair facilities," he added.

Boothby did not say how many missiles were destroyed during the week-long mission of his 35-member team. "We have done our part in both destroying 62 (Scud missiles) last June and now we have seen another significant number," he said. "Altogether I do think it has been a very worthwhile week and a very fruitful week and certainly we at long last, I think, made one or two quite large steps of progress," Boothby said.

He added that the next UN inspecition team will visit Iraq in mid-April and that his team would leave the country for Bahrain on Monday after another visit to a military site.

On Sunday, the team inspected the military base at al-Taji, 30 kilometers (20 miles) north of Baghdad, but he said it found nothing that had to be destroyed under the UN disarmament resolutions stemming from the end of the Gulf war. The destruction work during the team's mission was thorough, he added. "What we have seen destroyed cannot be put back together again," he said. "We make sure that when we destroy items, they are completely unusable and not able to be repaired."

UN Talks on Easing Oil Exports Conclude

AU2803151292 Paris AFP in English 1449 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] Vienna, March 28 (AFP)—Talks between the United Nations and Iraq on easing the embargo on Iraqi oil exports ended Saturday with no agreement but some progress, officials said.

"We need to go back to our authorities to seek further instructions," said the Iraqi delegation chief 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari. "On certain points we agreed, yes, not on others," he said adding that there were "no stumbling points." He said there were still about 10 points of disagreement but did not say what they were.

The talks had opened Thursday at U.N. Headquarters here after a two-and-a-half month break.

"We are both willing to reach a satisfactory agreement," according to al-Anbari, Baghdad's ambassador to the United Nations in New York. He said a further round of negotiations would be needed to resolve the issue "perhaps in weeks, more likely in Vienna."

U.N. Deputy Secretary General Giandomenico Picco said the fact that al-Anbari was heading to Baghdad before returning to New York was an "important decision." "If you go back, there are important things to discuss. I'll be eager to wait for news from him when he returns to New York," he said.

Picco also refused to give any details on the talks. "You can have an agreement on 90 percent but not on the other 10 percent, then you don't have an agreement," he said. But he stressed that "we haven't wasted two-and-a-half days" at the talks in Vienna. He said he had suggested ways in which the "U.N. scheme can be implemented" but could "not change resolutions."

The Vienna talks are based on Security Council Resolutions 706 and 712 of last August and September that authorized Iraq, hit since August 1990 by an international embargo after its invasion of Kuwait, to sell for a period of six months the equivalent of 1.6 billion dollars in oil. Most of the revenues from these sales must be used to buy staples and medication to alleviate shortages in Iraq, while 30 percent is to go to finance U.N. missions in Iraq. But Iraq has objected to these terms, demanding an increase in the amount of oil it can export and objecting to U.N. controls on the issue as a violation of its sovereignty.

In New York on Friday, the U.N. Security Council decided to continue the economic embargo imposed against Iraq, saying it had failed to comply with U.N. demands for the elimination of its weapons of mass destruction under Gulf war ceasefire aterms.

Under the U.N. resolution setting the terms for the ceasefire, the Council must meet every 60 days to discuss whether to end the economic embargo.

Barzani Says Kurdish Elections Set for 30 Apr

AU2703221292 Paris AFP in English 2012 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] Paris, March 27 (AFP)—Iraqi Kurdish leader Ma'sud Barzani on Friday said elections in northern Iraq would take place on April 30 and warned against "interior or exterior attempts to harm the democratic process underway". In a statement issued here, Barzani, leader of the Kurdish Democratic Party (PDK) and joint leader of the Iraqi Kurdistan Front, said the elections would be organised under Iraqi law and had been unanimously backed by the Front's leadership.

"These elections are both a defiance (of the Iraqi regime) and a chance for Kurds to show the world they not only demand democracy, but exercise and practise it", he said. The elections would not represent an attempt to "create an independent political entity but the PDK saw no other alternative to organise the situation in Kurdistan", he said. Barzani said he agreed with Jalal Talabani,

the other joint leader of the Front and leader of the UPK (Popular Union of Kurdistan) on the date and organisational details of the elections.

Kurdish Socialist Party leader Mahmud 'Usman said Sunday in Iraq that a date for the election would be announced imminently following a meeting of the Front but that it was necessary to await Barzani's return from a month-long trip to Europe for a definitive decision.

PUK Delegation Visits Tehran; Battles in South

JN2803180792 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Muhammad Sadiq al-Husayni report from Tehran]

[Text] A high-level Kurdish delegation is currently visiting the Iranian capital to bolster relations between the Kurdish and Iranian sides.

Dr. Kamal Fu'ad, official in charge of foreign relations in the Jalal Talabani-led Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], told our radio station that the talks with the Baghdad government have failed completely and that he pins no hopes on the improvement of the situation while Saddam Husayn's government remaining in power. He said that the only solution to the Iraqi Kurdistan situation is through the parliamentary elections for the people of Kurdistan at the end of April. The Kurdish parliament will form the civil administration and will act as the Kurdish northern government, because Saddam Husayn has left the people there without a living or any administration, Kamal Fu'ad added.

In another development, the situation in the southern marshlands in Iraq is further deteriorating following Saddam Husayn's surprise visit to that region in the past few days.

Mr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Hakim, brother of Imam Baqir al-Hakim, who informed us of this, said that the Iraqi president has decided that he will award valuable prizes to the Iraqi officer who soon informs him of the collapse of the triangle of the Iraqi marshlands situated in the center of the governorates of al-Samawah, al-Basrah, and al-'Amarah.

According to sources of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, violent battles are currently raging in that region in which heavy losses are being inflicted on the Iraqi Army.

Iraqi Army Shells Chamchamal 26 Mar

NC2703162992 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1605 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] At 2130 on the night of 26-27 March, regime artillery shelled residential quarters in the town of Chamchamal, destroying a number of houses.

Meanwhile, as a result of the dictatorial forces' artillery shelling of (Chaluk) village in Aski Kalak on 25 March, a six-year-old child was martyred.

In another development, enemy forces from the 5th and 57th Infantry Divisions have conducted wide-scale searches in the areas of Daquq, (Hartaghar), and (Kakin).

'Large Number' Killed

LD2803161592 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] Iraqi Army artillery units shelled Chamchal and its surrounding villages last night. According to a report from the Patriotic Radio of Kurdistan, a large number of people were killed or wounded and a further group left the city due to the shelling.

Libya's al-Bishari Sends Message to Ahmad Husayn

JN2903190792 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1841 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Mar (INA)—Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn has received a message from Ibrahim Muhammad al-Bishari, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee for External Liaison and International Cooperation.

The message was delivered by Libyan charge d'affaires Muhammad Bin-Tulaymun during a meeting with the minister this morning. The message deals with Libya's stand on the attempts aimed at issuing a UN Security Council resolution which would impose a military and economic embargo in accordance with Article 7 of the UN Charter.

The foreign minister said that Iraq supports and backs Libya in confronting the threats in a manner which maintains its dignity, independence, and sovereignty.

The meeting was attended by the head of the Arab Department at the Foreign Ministry.

Levi Statement on Decision To Quit Government

TA2903201592 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1730 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Address by Foreign Minister David Levi at the Dan Herzliyyah Hotel—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] They said about me: He has forsaken the Likud branches, and the branches have deserted him. He has no more power; he is finished, dead. And for what? For the devotion? For my activity that yielded results in Europe, Asia, and the United States? When there are hardships, suddenly everyone is a foreign minister; everyone is an expert. They make declarations: Let us declare war against the United States, because there are alternatives to the United States. Everyone has an alternative! All we have to do is to declare war against it, and it will tremble. And when it trembles, it will act the way we want it to.

Who knows? Perhaps someone wrote that this is over. I do not recall—perhaps, I do not know—that any forum ever made such a decision. I do know, however, that all such expressions are based on mistakes. True, we have arguments with the United States. True, we have to debate with it, and we do. Not everything is made public. We have to adhere to our positions, without trembling knees, not only through declarations, but with sharp arguments. We must state clearly what we cannot do: You will not get your way on this. At the same time, we must seek ways toward understandings. This friendship—despite U.S. mistakes and misdeeds—has no substitute. The whole world and the countries around us are only waiting for some crisis to take place; then they will have what they have been waiting for. Our enemies and others will rejoice. The United States has been the dam to many hostile and dangerous attitudes to Israel.

Thanks to it and our understanding with it—which was not obtained easily, but through serious effort—we have reached the political process, following our demand, and based on the same principles: bilateral negotiations, with the Arab countries talking peace with us. True, it is difficult, but we have broken a taboo that had existed for decades: their refusal to talk to us. [applause] They said that Camp David is dead, extinct. And here, we follow the Camp David formula on the Palestinian issue. We will not sit with the PLO! Some say it is behind the scenes, behind the curtain. The fact is that it is not at the table.

We also entered multilateral negotiations for regional and economic development. There are great chances; there are great risks. That is why harmony is needed in government work! We need mutual trust and confidence. What happened, my friends, does not add to this essential harmony. I fear it will hamper this important and essential work. [passage omitted]

You know what happened: the crisis, the inability—or perhaps the lack of desire—to mend the cracks and close the ranks. We held discussions in good faith and every achievement that we reached was rejected by the prime minister, after ministers he appointed went to him with agreements we made. He told them, no! Go back and correct this again and again, three times. My friends, we will hurt ourselves no more! We will not accept this! No more foot-dragging. And that is why I have reached the conclusion—not emotions, not shooting from the hip, not a spontaneous reaction. I have been patient all my life; not once did I swallow hard over the lack of ability and willingness to correct what needed be corrected. To prevent this from happening again, to prevent the affairs of state from being damaged—because harmony has been damaged, because the Likud has been seriously damaged—I have no choice, and I am here to tell you that after all this long road that we went together, I.... [heckling is heard]

That is why I have reached the conclusion—after long debates with myself, and because I cherish this movement of which I am a part. I am part of its flesh and bones. I went a long way in it. I gave it my youth. I brought all my love to it. I brought masses of supporters to it. The movement is my home. It is not easy to leave a path a man walked for more than half his life. I have had hard times, victories and downfalls. I loved it and I still do. Weak men must not destroy a great idea. A path and a world view must not crumble because some men are small.

There is one thing I must do—for the Likud, for the future, for the state: I have decided to quit the government. [applause]

Reiterates Reasons for Quitting

TA3003115192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0905 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Report by political correspondent Arye Golan]

[Text] Today Foreign Minister David Levi said good-bye to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, since this was probably his last appearance in the committee in his capacity as foreign minister. So far he has not announced leaving the Likud, and, contrary to the custom of ministers emerging from Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee meetings, he refused to be interviewed.

Levi said that all is not perfect in the relationship with the United States. It should be understood that the United States does not identify with Israel's policy and that the two countries differ on matters of substance. Minister Levi added that despite everything, we must not despair since the two countries have many common interests. The relationship with the United States must be cherished above all, because there is no substitute. The ties with America, said Levi, are a dam holding back negative, occasionally anti-Israeli trends emanating from numerous other countries which seek alternative solutions for the problem presented by Israel. Israel should avoid a public exacerbation of relations with the United States and should not allow processes deepening the crisis to develop. At this point, the foreign minister added an observation which was perceived as an allusion

to Health Minister Ehud Olmert: Those who are not conversant with all the details should not launch comprehensive public offensives. These may produce an attractive newspaper headline, but afterward, great efforts are needed to reverse their damage. Levi added that there have been many headlines which had no connection with facts.

At this point Levi stopped reading his written statement and turned to the committee members—only six or seven of whom showed up at today's meeting—and said: I hope someone will take my place soon, and I hope he will show the way and propose ideas capable of promoting the process and accelerating the implementation of the important issues to which I have referred.

Knesset Member Yosi Sarid pointed out what he perceived as a contradiction between David Levi's remarks that the government is devotedly pursuing the peace process, and his mentioning the political issue as one of the reasons for his resignation. The foreign minister replied: I never said I was resigning in connection with the political process, but one of the reasons for my resignation is the fact that as a result of the current state of relations between me and the prime minister—mainly against the backdrop of last week's events—harmony, which is necessary for cooperation between a prime minister and a foreign minister, may have been impaired.

Levi Aides Remark on Future Moves

TA3003053692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi's confidants are saying that he may soon quit the Likud to set up a new party. They told our political correspondent Arye Golan that they are not ruling out the possibility that after the Knesset elections, they will form a government together with Labor under Yitzhaq Rabin.

Levi camp members have said that if the Shamir-Arens camp pursues what they termed its arrogant and patronizing course of action, the move launched by David Levi last night will be liable to terminate the Likud-rule era.

Knesset Member [MK] Re'uven Rivlin [Levi's close associate who was elected to slot 32 on the Likud Knesset list] from the Levi camp says there is no need to destroy the party, and no one should ask the prime minister to undertake tasks he is unable to carry through. In an interview with Qol Yisra'el, MK Rivlin said that the composition of the Likud seven-man panels cannot be changed at this point, and Mr. Shamir should not make promises he is unable to keep. He believed that the prime minister should now come to the Levi camp and speak the truth so as to find solutions.

Shamir Aides Have 'No Comment'

TA2903191292 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Discussion between anchorman Ya'aqov Ahime'ir and political correspondent Gadi Sukenik—live]

[Excerpt] [Ahime'ir] David Levi, foreign minister and vice prime minister, has quit the government, as he announced this evening. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik is in the studio. What initial reactions do you have?

[Sukenik] Some of the ministers said that they were not surprised, that they knew that, given the current state of affairs, he had to make some move. Since they sensed that his political future may be problematic if he quits the Likud, some of them said they had anticipated he would quit the government. Some of the reactions show malicious joy, but now they are beginning to worry about the future of the Likud. At the same time, they fear an exacerbated struggle among the Likud camps. It is believed that now Levi will devote all his time to fighting senior Likud leaders and Prime Minister Shamir.

The reaction from Shamir's bureau is one of no comment. Shamir's associates provided the initial assessment that he may consider tonight whether to talk to David Levi tomorrow and try to appease him, for fear that a rift in the Likud on the eve of elections might be detrimental.

The Foreign Ministry is stunned. No one there anticipated this move. Officials there—who most of the time feel that they are the more moderate front, that they are supposed to tone down Israel's reactions to political issues in the world—feel this evening that their support in the current government has been taken away. They fear that the portfolio will be handed over, if only temporarily, to the prime minister or one of his associates. They fear that this will be followed by more extreme stands. Those are the initial reactions so far. [passage omitted]

Shamir Cancels Trip to U.S. Amid 'Mistrust'

TA2803194792 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1830 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] U.S. President George Bush says that the administration must make a greater effort to improve ties with Israel. He also said the U.S. commitment to Israel is a fundamental one. Those remarks were reported by THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports that criticism was voiced in the Foreign Ministry and the Prime Minister's Office against Health Minister Ehud Olmert, who is accused of damaging relations with the United States. Our correspondent adds, however, that the prevailing mood in the Prime Minister's Office is one of mistrust toward the present administration, although

its desire to prevent further deterioration in the ties between the two countries is acknowledged.

Our correspondent has learned that in the present circumstances, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has decided not to travel to the United States, where he was to attend the annual convention of the Jewish lobby.

U.S. Team Said To See No Evidence on Patriots

TA2903052692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Text] The members of the U.S. fact-finding team that arrived in Israel to investigate the allegations that Patriot technology had been transferred to a third country have unofficially said that no evidence has been discovered to support the charge. They made no official statement, however, before leaving the country. [passage omitted]

Netanyahu on U.S. Relations, Patriot Inspection

TA2703184492 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Interview with Binyamin Netanyahu, deputy minister at the Prime Minister's Office, by Menashe Bakhar on 27 March—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Bakhar] Minister Olmert, who is currently visiting the United States, was quoted as allegedly making remarks critical of the U.S. Administration and President Bush, whom he accused of persecuting the State of Israel. Do you agree that President Bush is against Israel?

[Netanyahu] As you correctly mentioned, the remarks were attributed to him. I heard Minister Olmert this morning saying that he had not made such remarks. I am not in the business of grading presidents.

I would like to tell you, however, that we cannot view the U.S. Administration as Israel's second government. It is not. As I already said, there are disagreements; often there are pressures. When it comes to Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, the United States is of the opinion that we should make moves that—I believe—would eventually bring us back to the 1967 borders. No responsible government could accept that. Surely some could say, and I believe some do: How can you oppose this? Well, we have opposed this since the Six-Day War. If, for the sake of improving our relations with the United States, we accept it, then we will be a 15 km-wide country. We will not last long like that.

When we have an argument with the United States—as we have now with the U.S. President and Administration—we debate. We use influence the way we know how in the United States. I also believe we have to unite the Israeli public around something that should involve us all. This is not to say that we should reach a rift in our relations with the United States. Differences exist; we have to know how to insist on our positions, and we do know how.

[Bakhar] Should Israel now show restraint and lower its profile?

[Netanyahu] Look, you must have noticed that over the past several days the United States has been trying to calm the waters through its official spokesmen. The U.S. envoy appeared on television, and a day before he told me similar things when we met in my office. I sense an attempt to lower the level of the debate, if you will, and I believe this is mutual. The United States and Israel have common interests. There are reciprocal relations. We may be a small country, but we are perhaps the most important country in this region, and the United States has an interest in us, no less than we have in it.

[Bakhar] Does the fact that an investigative team was sent here to probe the Patriot issue indicate that the United States is toughening its line?

[Netanyahu] I am surprised at this question. After all, we invited the delegation here. There were leaks to the U.S. press, the source of which I do not know. We said: Please, come and see whether we relayed a tiny bit of Patriot technology to the PRC. This means that we invited them here. They came here and are holding their inspection. I expect and hope that, upon their return to the United States, they will report on what they saw. If they found nothing—and they found nothing because they could not have found anything because we did nothing of the sort—let them file their report, by all means. But let them report not only to the U.S. Government; I would also wish that their conclusions be shared with the U.S. public, which will know that Israel keeps its agreements.

Rabin Calls for 'Cease-Fire' With U.S.

TA2703191892 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Interview with Labor Party Chairman Yitzhaq Rabin by Menashe Bakhar; date not given—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Bakhar] Mr. Rabin, would you say the solid basis of our special relationship with United States is eroding?

[Rabin] I believe a solid infrastructure of understanding and willingness to cooperate exists in the United States and certainly here, despite the current tension and perhaps even loss of confidence between the heads of both countries.

[Bakhar] Regarding the visit by representataives of the U.S. Administration to examine the Patriot missiles, do you view this as a deliberate toughening of the stance of the United States?

[Rabin] This is one of the expressions of the existing tension. There is no doubt in my mind our relations with the U.S. Administration have reached a very grave low. This should be viewed, however, against the background

of current circumstances. I can only hope that everything that has come to pass in the past several months will eventually end.

[Bakhar] Do you believe that the United States is stressing the exertion of pressure at this time because we are on the eve of elections here?

[Rabin] I believe it should not be linked with the elections here. By the same token, the Americans certainly believe that some of the remarks coming from Israel, or what they believe to be remarks made by Israel's friends in the United States about President Bush, are linked to the elections there. When there is an atmosphere of suspicion and mutual mistrust, tension is created and steps are taken that would not have been had the situation been different.

[Bakhar] What do you suggest Israel do at this time? Should it act with restraint, or should it continue its argument with the United States? What should it do to ease the tension?

[Rabin] The special fabric of our relations with the United States is one of the greatest assets Israel has acquired. We have to consider the fact that during the past seven years we have received $21 billion in U.S. grants. This has allowed Israel to reinforce its security and strengthen its economy and international status. Had we not had this U.S. support, Israel's international status would have been entirely different. We should do our best, without affecting Israel's essential interests. We must first of all disperse the tension. We have to prevent a situation in which U.S. leaders—secretaries and officials—launch all sorts of onslaughts against us here and there on issues that are really minor. This only increase tension. We must create a cease-fire in the tension. I believe this can be done. The problem is how you go about doing this in the absence of trust between the parties.

Knesset Committee Head on Ties With U.S.

TA2903104692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0905 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Telephone interview with Knesset Member Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, by Shalom Oren—live]

[Text] [Oren] Good morning, Mr. Ben-Elisar.

[Ben-Elisar] Good morning.

[Oren] I would like to discuss U.S.-Israeli relations with you. Today's papers highlight the SUNDAY TELEGRAPH's report that Saudi Arabia transferred Patriot secrets to the PRC. George Bush's letter to his friend, George Klein, is also mentioned. Should Israel demand an apology from the United States in light of all this?

[Ben-Elisar] Israel should demand an apology in any case because we knew the truth all the time, which was that we had never given the PRC or anyone else a Patriot missile, part of such a missile, or any Patriot technology. The Americans suspected us and immediately made sure these suspicions were leaked to the press. They must apologize. I have not even the slightest doubt about that. It would not be honest, fair, or American to cast suspicions on a certain party and then not apologize when the truth becomes apparent.

[Oren] How will relations be affected if the United States does indeed apologize?

[Ben-Elisar] If the United States issues an apology, we should close the case. Not forget the matter, but rather pretend that it never occurred. Such things happen. An administration can make a mistake. If it admits it was wrong, the matter should be forgiven and relegated to the past.

[Oren] But even if the United States apologizes, it will still not change its position on the loan guarantees.

[Ben-Elisar] There will be no change in its position, certainly not until after the elections in Israel. One must understand that the U.S. Administration intends to influence Israeli public opinion and the Israeli election campaign. For some reason the U.S. Administration is of the opinion that the guarantees—and these are only guarantees, not money—constitute aid to the Israeli Government. It is a pity that this is the way it sees things, because this assistance is merely humanitarian aid to help absorb new immigrants to Israel from the Soviet Union. This has nothing to do with the Israeli Government in power at the time. The United States views this as aid to the Likud Government.

[Oren] So you regard this as a political stick brandished by the United States. Is Washington trying to influence the results of the elections in Israel?

[Ben-Elisar] Yes, it is trying to influence the results. This is definitely a political stick, not only in the election campaign, of course, but also with regard to the country's future borders. The United States wants to define Israel's borders as it sees fit and not as we would like to see them. This is even before practical negotiations with the Arabs have begun. On the immediate plane, however, they are trying to intervene in the Israeli elections.

[Oren] Do you believe that this could affect public opinion in Israel?

[Ben-Elisar] I think it should prove to the Israeli public that if we do not really want to become a banana republic, if we want to show the Americans that they cannot walk in here as they did in Panama and decide who will head the government in Israel, if we want to show them that the Israeli people are the sole sovereigns and judges here, then the people must make their decisions not according to the desires of the U.S. Administration, but according to what the Israeli people want.

[Oren] Does the present situation remind you of when the late Menahem Begin said that Israel is not a banana republic?

[Ben-Elisar] I would certainly like to see the Israeli leadership deliver an official message along these lines to the Americans. We are friends; we are also allies. We share strategic interests and moral values, but please remember that we are not a banana republic. They have to be told this.

[Oren] What do the Americans really want?

[Ben-Elisar] They want to see a government in Israel that will be amenable to them, a government that will be willing to accept their demands, which call for Israel to withdraw from almost all of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip with minor modifications to the 1967 borders. They are admittedly opposed to the establishment of a Palestinian state but nevertheless talk about the legitimate political rights of the Palestinians—something which constitutes a deviation from the Camp David accords. They are actually, for all intents and purposes, regrettably inching toward self-determination for the Palestinians. This is what they want, and they simply would like Israel to agree with them. This is something we must never do.

[Oren] But Israel also wanted in the past, and still desires today, to have some influence on the U.S. elections. In the current elections we would also like to have an amenable president or a supportive administration.

[Ben-Elisar] Israel has never intervened in U.S. elections directly or indirectly. We have never intervened in any way or voiced our preferences regarding presidents. God forbid. We have never done this. Certain Israeli figures may make a casual remark here or there. The Israeli Government and official leadership have always condemned such statements. We have never intervened, nor shall we ever make the mistake of doing so. Of course everyone has his own preference regarding the leadership of any country in the world, but we have never made our sentiments public, nor shall we.

[Oren] Can we ask the United States for some sort of time-out until 24 June during which neither side will issue any statements or take any actions?

[Ben-Elisar] The world, however, will keep on turning. We really have no intention of deciding the borders of the United States. We do not tell them which of their enemies to negotiate with and how to do so. Meanwhile, however, Washington is trying to designate the borders of the State of Israel and dictate to us how to negotiate with our Arab enemies.

[Oren] But we are dependent on them and not the other way around.

[Ben-Elisar] Just a minute. What do you mean, we are dependent on them? We maintain a framework of strategic cooperation, and the United States is interested in maintaining this cooperation and alliance. There is no one-sided dependency here. There is mutual dependence. When the United States helped France or Britain, did anyone say that Britain depended on the United States with nothing in common between the two countries? People should be reminded of this occasionally. Great Britain asked for help from the United States, and America came to its rescue.

[Oren] You know, another proposal was submitted by Israel's supporters in Congress stipulating that loan guarantees be given to Israel but not to the Israeli Government. In other words, the money would be transferred to a nongovernmental fund that would finance absorption projects inside the Green Line. Would this be acceptable to you?

[Ben-Elisar] This is not aid given to the Israeli Government. This aid is meant to facilitate immigrant absorption. Any assistance given for immigrant absorption would be positive. If we could get guarantees for extensive loans, with these loans earmarked for immigrant absorption with clear control over their allocation, it would be great. I just cannot see which body could receive these loans except the Israeli Government. What bank would extend $10 billion in loans to anyone if the government was not behind it? If this is feasible, however, great—just as long as we are able to absorb the new immigrants, generate new jobs, and witness an upswing in the rate of immigration from the Soviet Union.

[Oren] In the meantime, we have received $250 million from the IMF.

[Ben-Elisar] We cannot discount that sum, but it is very far from what we need.

[Oren] Thank you, Mr. Ben-Elisar.

Sharon on Ties With U.S., Jerusalem Settlements

TA2803112892 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0900 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Interview with Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon by 'Adi Talmor on the "Current Situation" weekly program; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Talmor] Good day, Minister Ari'el Sharon.

[Sharon] Good day.

[Talmor] It looks like the U.S. Administration has put out a contract on the Likud government. Do you also have that impression?

[Sharon] I am sure that the American people have remained as friendly to Israel as before. I believe that the administration is making mistakes in its treatment of Israel, and I say that with regret. I know about the claim that we may no longer be a strategic asset in the wake of the changes in the world, but I believe we should look at the situation slightly differently. We are a strategic asset to ourselves, to the whole Jewish people, and that must be the starting point for us. We have to see what is threatening us today and also what is threatening the

United States now, and within that framework try to see the possibility perhaps of creating relations different from the current ones.

What is currently threatening Israel more than anything else is the Arab-Muslim fundamentalist threat emanating from Iran, from Hizballah in Lebanon, and from Jordan where these movements are growing stronger and are handling the terrorist actions inside Israel. That danger extends beyond the Palestinian problem, and even if we assume that issue will be resolved, this movement will still try to become stronger and achieve new objectives. We have to face that situation and we are capable of doing so, but if we raise our eyes slightly we will see that Muslim extremism threatens the oil states, especially Saudi Arabia, irrespective of Israel. That means it is a threat to U.S. interests in the region. That is the real threat the United States is currently facing. The United States must decide whether it wants to cope with that threat on its own, and perhaps again deploy forces in the Middle East as it did in the Gulf war, or whether it wants to discuss strategic cooperation with Saudi Arabia and us in order to deter that danger.

[Talmor] There is the impression that the U.S. Administration does not currently buy that theory. This can be seen in the state of our relations with the United States.

[Sharon] Then, to our regret, we will have to face the threats I have just mentioned as an independent and sovereign country, and that will have a strong impact on our relations with other countries and other peoples. Had Israel appeared to the world, including the United States, to be acting like a sovereign state, there may have been greater respect for it. Perhaps in that sphere also we have to behave slightly differently than we have.

[Talmor] In other words, according to Ari'el Sharon, we can manage without the U.S. Administration and U.S. aid?

[Sharon] You are probably referring to the loan guarantees issue. That is the issue currently on the agenda.

[Talmor] I am also referring to the military aid and the $3 or $4 billion in annual aid.

[Sharon] We must understand once and for all that Israel is not a country which eats out of somebody else's palm, as some people like to say. Israel is a stable democracy, the only one in the entire region, and as such it has its own integral value, and its contribution is very large, but I never look at the situation as one in which one side serves another or is somebody else's policeman. Since those matters are not being raised, I do not suggest going out of our way to end civilian economic aid. Years ago I suggested preparing to give it up in a multiyear plan, and if we prepare as we should it would be possible. The real question facing us is security for the Jews, or dollars. Settlement throughout all parts of this country contributes to daily security just as the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] does. If there were no settlements, we would not have been there long ago.

[Talmon] The establishment of a Jewish neighborhood in Jerusalem's Muslim Quarter is also part of the security framework?

[Sharon] Jerusalem is the heart of the Jewish people, the capital of the Jews for over 3,000 years, the capital of the State of Israel, the heart of the problem. Strengthening Jewish settlement in Jerusalem should be our top concern.

[Talmor] But in the Muslim Quarter of the Old City? The left calls that plan a catastrophe, a knife cutting into the belly of the peace process.

[Sharon] Jews will live in Jerusalem, including East Jerusalem, and that is the only thing that can assure a united city as the eternal capital of the Jews under Israeli sovereignty and without any status for any foreign element. There is room for the Arab population there, and the two can coexist. There will no place in Jerusalem where Jews cannot live, and a situation in which Jews cannot live anywhere in their capital is out of the question. [passage omitted]

[Talmor] We will conclude with what we started, our current relations with the United States. Bush and Baker are standing firm, as is Ari'el Sharon.

[Sharon] The Jewish people, not Ari'el Sharon, are standing firm, and the Jewish people have a right to exist as an independent people. That is our right, and we must defend our existence. That is not only our right, but our duty toward our generation and the generations to come.

Delay in Reply to Invitation to Peace Talks

TA3003094592 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 30 Mar 92 p 1

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Excerpt] Israel is not accepting the U.S. invitation to the next round of bilateral talks for now; it is delaying its reply until it receives firm assurances that this round will be the last held in Washington.

Political sources in Jerusalem said last night that U.S. Ambassador to Israel William Harrop last weekend advised Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir that the next round of bilateral talks would convene on 27 April in Washington. Harrop said that the United States was taking action aimed at moving the talks to another location in the future.

Shamir advised Harrop that Israel is not settling for a U.S. declaration of intent and that it wishes to ascertain that the Arabs have actually accepted the Israeli demand to have the talks moved. Harrop reiterated his confidence that the Arabs will eventually agree to convey a list of proposed European venues for talks, as Israel has done, and he promised to apprise the administration of Israel's stand.

It should be noted that yesterday a difference could be discerned between the approach of the Prime Minister's

Office and that of the Foreign Ministry. While the Prime Minister's Office announced that despite the U.S. statement, nothing has been settled formally as yet, Foreign Ministry Director General Yosef Hadas was quoted in an official ministry communique stating categorically that "the next bilateral encounter will be held in Washington with the understanding that this is to be the last round" in the U.S. capital.

Foreign Ministry sources said later that Hadas had been misquoted and that Israel is in fact awaiting an unequivocal U.S. clarification on the issue of transfering the talks to another location. The sources added that the Americans believe the Arabs will formulate a positive stand on the issue during the Arab foreign ministers meeting scheduled for the end of this week in Beirut.

It is estimated at the Foreign Ministry and the Prime Minister's Office that despite these facts, Israel will in the end agree to the Washington venue even without the requested U.S. assurances, as there is no wish to open an additional and unnecessary battlefront in the already precarious relations between Israel and the U.S. Administration.

Israel and the administration also disagree on the talks' duration: The Americans demand that the next round last two weeks, while Israel is prepared to come for one week only because the Day of Remembrance and Independence Day are marked at the beginning of May. [passage omitted]

Defense Source Reacts as Katyushas Fired at Zone

TA3003065192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] Twenty-five Katyushas were fired yesterday at southern Lebanon from a sector controlled by the Lebanese Army. Hayim Hecht reports:

Although no Lebanese terrorist organization has assumed responsibility for the rockets so far, it is widely acknowledged that the act was blatant and dangerous provocation directed at the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and SLA [South Lebanese Army].

The fire began at 0600 [0300 GMT] and went on until evening. The last rocket landed next to an apartment house but fortunately did not explode. An SLA engineering unit blew it up without causing damage.

Military figures in the north stress that the absence of casualties and the fact that the missiles were not directed at Galilee towns does not detract from the gravity of the event. A senior officer says: It does not matter to us whether the fire is directed at Marj 'Uyun or Metulla; we care about the well-being of the security zone residents.

Even veteran observers in Lebanon are surprised at the absence of an IDF and SLA reaction to the Katyushas. The defense source reiterates: We will decide on the time, place, and intensity of our reaction. The senior officer stresses, however, that the rockets were fired from areas which are acknowledged Hizballah territory but where Lebanese Army battalions have been recently deployed. In the past two days, the Defense Ministry in Beirut has been conducting an extensive public relations campaign blazing its deployment in the south. All Lebanese media have received photographs of motorized patrols in southern al-Biqa'. The diagnosis by the military source in the north: It may be impressive, but they are absolutely impotent. Terrorists must have also realized the Lebanese Army's impotence, and they have a free hand to do whatever they wish.

Preparations for Nuclear Power Station Continue

TA2603123592 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 Mar 92 p A2

[Excerpts] Preparations for the establishment of the first nuclear power station in Israel are proceeding slowly and are focused on checking the feasibility of the Shivta site. Moshe Katz, director general of the Israel Electricity Company, said yesterday that even if the site proves feasible, the power station will not be set up before the first decade of the 21st century. He added that the company is closely following reports about the incident at the nuclear power station near St. Petersburg in Russia. [passage omitted]

No progress has been made concerning the purchase of a reactor from Russia since last year's contacts on the matter. Nevertheless, efforts to find an appropriate site for the station in Israel have not ceased. Started back in 1979, these efforts have centered on the northern Negev, and since 1983, they have focused on Shivta, which is located 5 km west of Ashalim, 15 km from the Egyptian border, and 30 km south of Beersheba. [passage omitted]

The Israel Electricity Company's plans remain only on paper, however, due to Israel's refusal to open the nuclear research center in Dimona to international supervision, which has resulted in a ban prohibiting manufacturers of nuclear reactors, both in the East and the West, from selling reactors to Israel. Israel's second nuclear research reactor at Nahal Soreq is subject to international supervision. Israel's position is that it will be prepared to make all the nuclear reactors that are established in the future (namely, all reactors with the exception of the one in Dimona—author's note) subject to international control. The UN-affiliated Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, however, is demanding that all the facilities be open to supervision.

Publication of Defense Export Audit Partly Banned

TA2703132192 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Mar 92 p A1

[Report by Aluf Ben]

[Text] The Knesset Public Audit Committee has decided to prohibit the publication of segments of the state comptroller's report on defense exports. Secrecy was imposed at the request of official elements who claimed

that the publication of the report at a time of a crisis with the United States is liable to furnish the U.S. Administration with a pretext for attacking Israel.

The chapter on defense exports will be included in State Comptroller Miryam Ben-Porat's annual report due to be submitted to the Knesset on 26 April. Various passages will be omitted from the report's public version, as described by a defense source: "There will be many things the public will not know."

Defense exports were audited in the Defense Ministry's Defense Sales Department. The auditors probed law enforcement, procedures for granting arms exports licenses, and the Defense Ministry's control of arms deals.

In addition, the audit examined adherence to the U.S. Administration's demands concerning the export of weapons containing either U.S. technology or components (re-export). In this context, the report notes that during the past year the Defense Ministry has introduced stricter regulations governing re-export of weapons and technology of U.S. origin.

According to the law, the Public Audit Committee is the body authorized to ban the publication of parts of the state comptroller's report on grounds of state security, foreign relations, or international trade ties.

The committee, chaired by Labor Knesset Member David Liba'i, has completed discussion of the chapters of the annual report dealing with the defense establishment and with sensitive foreign ties. The state comptroller's office is now editing the report and preparing it for print.

King Said To Reject UN Forces for Iraqi Border

JN2903084692 Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic
30 Mar 92 p 1

[Text] AL-MUHARRIR has learned that a sharp disagreement has broken out between Jordan and the United States on a U.S.-British-French proposal to deploy UN forces along the Jordanian-Iraqi border to prevent Iraq from receiving necessary commodities. Reliable sources said that the Jordanian monarch rejected a proposal presented by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to deploy UN forces along the Jordanian-Iraqi border in accordance with a new Security Council resolution. The king said that such a resolution encroaches on Jordan's sovereignty and undermines its credibility. Consequently, such a resolution will not be accepted, particularly since Amman is abiding by the embargo resolutions, which exclude food and medicine, and because of relations of fraternity and blood. Jordan cannot distance itself from Iraq nor contribute to the starvation of its children.

It appears that the issue came up before the visit to Washington by King Husayn and was also the cause of sharp disagreement with the British Government, which insisted on deploying UN forces along the Jordanian-Iraqi border. Hence, the Jordanian monarch refrained from visiting London during his European-U.S. tour. The Jordanian position, however, was understood by French President Mitterrand, who supported this position by abandoning the proposal and convincing the United States to go back on it. Once again, we thank the courageous king.

Editorial on Saudi King's Statements on Democracy

JN2903095692 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
29 Mar 92 p 1

[Editorial: "Were These Political Statements or Fatwas?"]

[Text] Regardless of one's intellectual or political inclination, one cannot help being struck by the statements made yesterday by Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz to the Kuwait-based AL-SIYASAH and the Abu Dhabi-based AL-ITTIHAD newspapers. In no uncertain terms, King Fahd declared that democracy is not suitable for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and that the election system is not part of Islamic doctrine.

We do not know if these were political statements which the Saudi king was kind enough to make, or fatwas [Islamic legal rulings], to which he committed himself and his country.

Democracy means the people's authority; public participation in government and decisionmaking; and dialogue among the people, the ruler, and the ruled over the running of government, the building of institutions, and providing all the means needed for construction and the achievement of progress and renaissance with team spirit and collective responsibility, in order to realize the freedom and decent life for which the people aspire. Who says that runs contrary to the tolerant Islamic shari'ah?

Who says that the election system is not part of Islamic doctrine? By God, this is strange indeed. Islam is the religion of love and free choice. Respect for the individual and his freedom and independence is the essence of its principles, and it opposes slavery, suppression, and injustice. "When did you enslave people while they were born free?" [quotation attributed to 'Umar Ibn-al-Khattab, the second orthodox caliph] No mind or logic can expect someone to say in this age denying that Islam has not advocated that the best, the most qualified, the most devout, and the one who has the strongest belief in God and His revelations and messengers cannot be chosen on the pretext that the system of selection, election, or choice is not part of our doctrine. Furthermore, such statements run contrary to the spirit of Islam and its tolerant teachings.

We wished we did not hear such statements from any Arab official, let alone from the custodian of the two holy mosques.

Furthermore, our astonishment and surprise is doubled when we note in the same interview that his majesty the Saudi king, who is concerned about applying the Islamic shari'ah in the fraternal kingdom, stressed that the kingdom will not allow the spread of what he calls "fundamentalist trends," meaning Islamic trends. How can we accommodate between preserving the Islamic doctrine and opposing any attempt at expansion by what has been called the fundamentalist trends.

We are puzzled by these statements. We hope they are no more than what we call newspaper talk.

Hizballah Delegation Visit to Sudan Detailed

NC2703135192 Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic 13 Mar 92 p 22

[Excerpts] At the invitation of the World Popular Friendship Council, a Hizballah delegation visited Sudan to celebrate the week of the Islamic Resistance and the week of his eminence 'Abbas al-Musawi, the great martyr of the Islamic Resistance. The delegation was accompanied by Shaykh Mahir Hammud, member of the Islamic Scholars Grouping.

During the week, there was an exhibition of posters and relief maps depicting the Lebanese Muslim resistance. Films were shown, seminars were held, and a rally was staged in support of the Islamic Resistance and its martyr, 'Abbas al-Musawi. [passage omitted]

Addressing the rally, Shaykh 'Ali Taha, member of the Hizballah political bureau, focused on the Islamic Resistance's militant struggle, on its strategy to liberate Jerusalem, and on its refusal to relinquish even so much as the fall leaves in Palestine. He affirmed that Hizballah will remain loyal to its pledge to God; to Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified; and to the Islamic nation to defeat the Jewish-U.S. design. He called for the solidarity of all Islamic movements, and urged all Muslims to prove their piety by becoming martyrs on the road to Jerusalem.

Shaykh Taha also spoke about Hizballah's support for Sudan, the nascent Islamic state, and about Hizballah's readiness to implement whatever the brother Sudanese ask. [passage omitted]

The delegation visited the Holy Koran University and met with Dr. Ahmad 'Ali al-Imam, its rector, and its teaching staff. It also visited Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, secretary general of the Sudanese Islamic National Front, who stressed Muslim unity against the Western plan.

Al-Turabi spoke about the political blockade of Sudan by the West, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt's Mubarak. He also spoke about the Sudanese people's defiance of this blockade by raising the slogan, "We eat what we plant and we wear what we weave."

The delegation also attended the graduation of a group of readers of the Koran. The delegation returned to Beirut on 6 March 1992. [passage omitted]

Amal Denies Hizballah Behind Argentine Blast

NC3003071992 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] Shaykh Husayn al-Musawi, leader of the Islamic Amal Movement, in an interview with Argentine television at the Movement's headquarters in Ba'labakk, said that Hizballah is not responsible for the bombing of the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires. He pointed out that if the Islamic Jihad Organization, which is an independent organization, carried out that operation, it might have had its own justifiable reasons for doing it.

Buwayz Sees 'Happy Ending' for German Hostages

NC2903055292 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said that the case of the two German hostages will come to a happy ending in the next few days or weeks at the latest.

He added that the Hammadi family is responsible for the abduction, and security organs have been unable to arrest the perpetrators, because the Hammadis are a big family and the authorities do not know the names of the kidnappers or where the two hostages are being held.

Al-Murr Views Government, Army Deployment

NC2603114092 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Report on remarks by Defense Minister Michel al-Murr; place and date not given]

[Text] Defense Minister Michel al-Murr said it is likely that the current government, with some changes, will remain in power. He added that if the government's performance is not satisfactory, it must be exposed and corrected.

Minister al-Murr denied any disagreement among the three government leaders, noting:

[Begin al-Murr recording] First of all, they did not spend 72 hours in Damascus merely to discuss the government's status. This could have been done in half an hour, and required only a pen and a paper and the replacement of some names with others. This can easily be done. They are not discussing the government's status in Damascus. Contrary to any speculation, the purpose of the Damascus talks was to give an impetus to the implementation of the remaining provisions of the al-Ta'if Accord. As to any disagreement among the leaders, there is none, nor are we mediating to reconcile any. [end recording]

Responding to a question on the respective stances of the president and prime minister, the defense minister said:

[Begin al-Murr recording] President al-Hirawi is not proposing a new government. I am close to President al-Hirawi. I do not think that he is keeping anything secret from the people or even from those who are close to him. Some of his close associates must know what is happening. As I know—from him personally—he has made no proposals about forming a new government headed by Rafiq al-Hariri. When the time comes for Rafiq al-Hariri to head a government, it might be beneficial for the country if a person of such economic importance plays a political role. This will happen only at the appropriate time, however. Perhaps it is not yet

the appropriate time. For this reason, President al-Hirawi is not proposing—as some media suggest—a new government headed by Rafiq al-Hariri.

As for reports that Prime Minister Karami holds a contrary view, and wants to reshuffle 10, 11, or 12 portfolios, they are also exaggerated. What I know is that Prime Minister Karami is staying on. This will either be with his current government with improved performance—telling the ministers that the people are criticizing them for this or that and they must rectify it; every one would be told by the government leaders to rectify his performance—or a reshuffle will take place. They would agree on a certain reshuffle, if there is need for one. [end recording]

On the Army's ability to deploy in various areas, Minister al-Murr explained:

[Begin recording] [al-Murr] Are we ready, in terms of numbers and equipment, to deploy in all Lebanese areas? I am telling you no. If we are asked to send 5,000 troops to Tripoli and 'Akkar, we do not have them. It does not mean that we do not want to get more troops. The camps in which we are training troops for deployment in the south will become free to receive new batches at the end of April, and 5,000 new national services enlistees will enter these camps in May. They will need four or five months of training to become ready for deployment.

[Unidentified correspondent] Will they be ready in September?

[Al-Murr] I do not know if they will be ready in September. This is not important. The al-Ta'if Accord says the deployment must take place in September, and all of us want to implement this agreement. But does this mean that we must undermine the country's security? Suppose by September I don't have 15,000 fully equipped troops to deploy. What will I do? Will I implement the al-Ta'if Accord, tell the Syrians to withdraw from Tripoli and 'Akkar, and let security be undermined because I will be ready in six months? As long as there is no dispute between us and the Syrians, they withdraw from any area that we tell them we are ready to take over. Whenever we tell them we are having difficulties in deploying in an area, such as West Beirut, and ask them to return, they return. Why should we create a crisis over this affair, as if the Syrians do not want to withdraw? [end recording]

Israeli Movements Reported in Security Zone

NC2703203892 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] Security reports from southern Lebanon indicate that Israeli occupation forces have sent armored military vehicles to the occupied border zone in the past few hours. These vehicles are used as mobile hospitals and mobile operating rooms. Some of these vehicles have been placed in the Marj 'Uyun barracks, which serve as general headquarters of the occupation forces in the border strip.

Meanwhile, an Israeli military delegation met with a number of militia commanders in the Zaghlah barracks. This was followed by a meeting with the area security official.

Intensive military movements also have been monitored in all the eastern sector's positions adjacent to the liberated areas. Intelligence and militia personnel have set up roadblocks on the main and secondary roads inside the area, and have sent patrols to the fields to watch the farmers.

'Outstanding' Response Expected

NC2903055392 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Text] The Lebanese Army continues to reinforce its presence in western al-Biqa', and has deployed in al-Qir'awn, Suhmur, Yuhmur, Qilya, and Dallafah.

A well-informed diplomatic source says that as a result of contacts by the Lebanese Foreign Ministry, it can be surmised that Israel has retained the freedom to decide the size of the military operation and its time, venue, method, and goals. The source said that Beirut has received information that the Israeli response to the bombing of their embassy in Buenos Aires will be outstanding [mutamayyizan] in its size, quality, and effectiveness.

Israel 'Exaggerating' Rumors

NC2903085492 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Text] As reports speaking in vague terms of a possible Zionist aggression against Lebanon multiply, well-informed sources have found it remarkable that Israel is exaggerating these reports in order to prepare the atmosphere for its aggression. Sources noted that some local media organs are also playing up the reports to create tension.

The same sources asserted that an Israeli operation, on any scale, would fare no better than the operation in Kafra and Yatar. The sources recalled how the Islamic Resistance thwarted that operation, inflicting heavy losses on the enemy and forcing it to retreat.

The sources said that resistance fighters have been mobilized in all areas, adding that these fighters can foil any Zionist aggression and inflict losses on the enemy that the latter could not dream of.

In a related development, reports from western al-Biqa' tell of large-scale mobilizations of the resistance and the Lebanese Army, particularly in the area extending from al-Qir'awn to Suhmur, Yuhmur, and Qilya, following recent reports of a Zionist military buildup in the area facing the steadfast western al-Biqa'.

Army Deployment in Western al-Biqa' Detailed

NC2903064392 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Text] Amid the atmosphere of caution prevailing in western al-Biqa' as a result of Israeli aggressions and repeated threats, the Lebanese Army has reinforced its presence in the area with men and armored vehicles. Elements of the 1st and 7th Brigades have deployed on the eastern and western banks of al-Qir'awn lake. Units of the 7th Brigade's 72d Battalion have deployed in Suhmur, Yuhmur, Zillaya, Qilya, and Libbaya. Units of the 1st Brigade have deployed in the villages of Mashgharah, Jubb Jannin, Kifrayya, and others.

Israelis Reportedly Shell al-Nabatiyah Area

NC3003123592 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] Our correspondent in al-Nabatiyah says that Israeli forces have been raking areas with artillery from their positions in al-Zaffat since 1315 today. The artillery barrage is targeting the al-Nabatiyah area, the 'Ali al-Tahir hills, and al-Dabshah. Some 18 shells have fallen near the Lebanese Army barracks and the forest overlooking al-Nabatiyah.

Attack on 'Occupation Troops' Claimed

NC3003121692 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] We begin this newscast with a report from the south, where several liberated areas came under bombardment from occupation positions before noon today.

Our correspondent in the central sector of the border strip reports that Najib Habballah was martyred during the bombardment of the township of Shaqra around 1000 today. Abu-Malik Habballah was wounded, and the town's mosque and homes belonging to Abu-Malik Habballah, Abu-Jihad Khalaf, Husayn al-'Ali, 'Ali Dib, Hasan Ghannush, and Ghassan Ghannush were damaged.

Our correspondent reports that a strong explosion occurred in the area around 0900 today. Columns of smoke were seen rising from the area of Hula in the occupied security strip. The Islamic Resistance announced that one of its groups detonated a large explosive charge at 0900 today under a mechanized patrol of the occupation troops along the road to Hula in the border strip. The explosion destroyed a vehicle and killed or wounded all the personnel in it. The group returned safely to base.

Efforts 'To Prepare' Basil al-Asad Detailed

JN2903142192 Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic 30 Mar 92 p 1

[Text] In its latest issue, the Syrian opposition bulletin AL-NAFIR says it expects Basil al-Asad, son of President Hafiz al-Asad, to be a party to the "succession battle," if it takes place. This is in light of recent attempts to polish the son's image.

AL-NAFIR says that Basil, assisted by a group of advisers, supervises several official activities from his office at the Presidential Palace.

During the recent presidential "referendum," the name of the expected "heir" was heard in songs of support and in popular processions. His portrait was also affixed to Army vehicles which traveled through the streets of cities and villages in a clear attempt to highlight Basil al-Asad's personality and to "prepare" him.

The Syrian president personally supervised the recent reconciliation among various military commanders. Basil prepared for and contributed to the success of these reconciliations.

Libyan Official Received by Assembly Speaker

JN2803182892 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] Damascus—'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, speaker of the People's Assembly, this afternoon received 'Abd-al-Hamid 'Ammar, secretary for People's Congress affairs at the Secretariat of the Libyan General People's Congress, and the delegation accompanying him. Shakir Is'ayyid, chairman of the Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee; and Humayyid Abu-Bakr Jallud, head of the Libyan Jamahiriyah's liaison office in Damascus, also attended.

The talks dealt with bilateral ties, the exchange of visits by parliamentary delegations, and the coordination of stands between the two parliaments and among Arab parliaments, especially at the international parliamentary conference to be held in Cameroon.

'Abd-al-Hamid 'Ammar and the delegation members praised Syria's stands under His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad. They also paid tribute to Syria's support for the Libyan Arab people against the the threats facing Libya.

For his part, Qaddurah affirmed Syria's support for and solidarity with the Libyan Jamahiriyah and its people in view of the threats facing them. During the meeting, the two sides affirmed the need to enhance Arab solidarity.

'Abd-al-Hamid 'Ammar arrived in Damascus at noon today, at the head of a Libyan delegation on a visit to Syria. He was welcomed upon arrival at Damascus International Airport by Shakir Is'ayyid, head of the Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee; and Humayyid Jallud, head of the Libyan Jamahiriyah's liaison office in Damascus.

Meets Ba'th Official

JN2903180792 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Text] Damascus—Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant Ba'th Party secretary general, held talks today with 'Abd-al-Hamid 'Ammar, secretary for People's Congress affairs at the Secretariat of the Libyan General People's Congress, and the delegation accompanying him. They discussed the brotherly relations between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Libyan General People's Congress, as well as issues of common interest to the both parties and both fraternal countries.

The talks also centered on the current crisis between Libya and some Western countries. Three Western countries had leveled accusations against Libya in connection with the incidents of the two U.S. and French planes.

Comrade al-Ahmar stressed the support of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and Syria for fraternal Libya and its people against threats and aggression. He said that the current crisis must be resolved through peaceful means, within a legal and judiciary framework, apart from threats and pressures, and in a just and fair manner.

Brother 'Ammar hailed Syria's pan-Arab, leading role under President Hafiz al-Asad, as well as its support for Libya and its Arab people against threats. He said that Syria constitutes a basis for Arab struggle, to entrench pan-Arab causes and to face all challenges threatening the Arab nation.

Communists Said To Invite Honecker to Damascus

JN2703132292 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] Damascus—The newspaper NIDAL AL-SHA'B, mouthpiece of the Syrian Communist Party [SCP], disclosed that the SCP, led by Khalid Bakdash, invited former East German President Erich Honecker to stay in Damascus.

The newspaper said that in mid-January, a party envoy, pretending to apply for a visa to Chile, entered the Chilean Embassy in Moscow to convey the invitation to Honecker, who is staying at the embassy.

Honecker's reply was received through the Syrian Embassy. The reply was that Moscow refuses to allow Honecker to leave the embassy, said the SCP newspaper.

Editorial Laments Israeli 'Policy of Aggression'

JN2403120292 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0830 GMT 24 Mar 92

[Text] Damascus, 24 Mar (SANA)—Today's AL-BA'TH editorial entitled "To Whom is Israel Accountable?"

says that since the start of the peace process in the region, the Arabs have presented proof that they are the side more prepared and truthful about implementing international resolutions related to settling the Arab-Israeli conflict. On the other hand, we find that Israel is adopting the same policy it has adopted since its establishment in our Arab homeland; that is, the policy of aggression, expansion, and absolute refusal to implement any UN resolutions that serve a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

The paper notes that Israel neither implemented nor committed itself to any Security Council or UN General Assembly resolutions. The paper says that contrary to what people think—especially Butrus Ghali, the new UN secretary general—some international resolutions were binding, but none of them was implemented, for well-known international reasons and circumstances. Certainly, Ghali is not unaware of these resolutions.

The paper adds that most of the resolutions currently being adopted by the United Nations are suddenly binding, especially when they are aimed against the Arabs, and that any party that does not implement or commit itself to these resolutions will violate international law.

AL-BA'TH says that Libya could be the latest victim, because the West seems almost determined to punish the Libyan Arab people, although the Libyan leadership has publicly announced to the world its response and cooperation with all the specialized international organizations. All this seems to be to no avail and will not benefit our brotherly people in Libya. Why? Because the resolution has actually been issued; not by the United Nations, of course, but by the international powers, which are today's decisionmakers.

The paper adds that the world, which these days is very eager to protect human beings and rights, has not made any move toward Israel's failure to commit itself to any international resolutions. Indeed, some even offered support to Israel at a time when it should have been made to account and severely punished for this.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH opines that what is basic is an effective Arab stance that is capable of influencing events, rather than being influenced by them.

Commentary Says Security Council Seen as 'Tool'

JN2703151192 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1235 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] While the International Court of Justice in The Hague has started to look into the legality of the U.S. and British demand that Libya hand over two Libyan nationals suspected in the crash of the American plane over Lockerbie; and while Libyan officials have voiced their definitive and frank commitment to any ruling by the court, which is the highest authority on solving disputes among governments, the Western states have gone ahead with their efforts to have the UN Security Council issue a resolution imposing an economic and air embargo on Libya. Reports mention the possibility of holding an official Security Council session next Monday [30 March].

Obviously, the influential Western states do not want international justice to follow its natural course, or to give Arab efforts an opportunity to tackle the crisis in an atmosphere of objectivity and constructive dialogue, free of intimidation and threats. Instead of remaining an international authority whose assistance is sought by small and weak states suffering from occupation, racial discrimination, injustice, and oppression, the Security Council has been transformed into a tool used by the big ones to issue binding resolutions when they want resolutions to be binding. They arm themselves with Article 7 of the UN Charter when they should not do so. In the Libyan case, the Westerners claim that two Libyans are involved. This claim does not extend beyond mere suspicion, and Article 7 does not apply in this case at all.

In the Middle East situation, in 1967 Israel attacked three Arab countries—Syria, Egypt, and Jordan—and the Security Council adopted its famous Resolution 242. In this case, Article 7 applies perfectly. Yet, for over 25 years, the influential Western powers have never tried to commit Israel to implement this resolution, despite the fact that the territories it occupied that year are still occupied, and the explosive Middle East crisis threatens peace worldwide.

There is a general feeling in the region that the Security Council is using two different standards. The enthusiasm it shows for besieging and humiliating Libya completely disappears when Israel is concerned. Israel's crime is a clear and hard fact. It is the most serious of its kind. Is there a more serious crime than uprooting an entire people from the land of their fathers and forefathers; scattering them all over the world; and exterminating them with weapons, starvation, and thirst? Is there a more serious crime than the treacherous and intentional killing of children?

Had the international community really been seeking to right wrongs and uphold UN values and principles, the Israeli leaders would now be facing trial because of what they committed, in terms of massacres that put humanity to shame.

The Arabs want international law to be applied to everyone without exception. They strongly condemn all forms of terrorism that harm innocent civilians. They truly want justice to take its course in the crash of the U.S. airliner. To apply international law to the Arabs because of mere suspicion, while still not applying it to Israel—which is trampling international law daily and committing massacres in sight of the entire world—will engender a feeling of injustice, destroy confidence in the Security Council and the new world order, and lead to negative repercussions in various parts of the Arab

homeland. Through President Hafiz al-Asad, Syria warned against this bitter double standard in dealing with the Middle East crisis, which should be a top priority.

It behooves the international community to tackle such a serious crisis and leave The Hague court the opportunity to discuss the case presented to it in accordance with normal laws and principles, instead of undertaking the adventure of imposing an embargo on a small Arab country that will have harmful effects on the entire region and undermine UN credibility in the process?

Al-Zu'bi Receives Iranian Commerce Minister

JN2803174192 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] Damascus—At 1300 today, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received Iranian Commerce Minister 'Abdol Hoseyn Vahaji. The meeting was attended by Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, economy and foreign trade minister; and Hasan Akhtari, Iranian ambassador in Damascus

The talks dealt with the strong and steadily growing ties between Syria and Iran. The conferees emphasized the need to expand bilateral economic and trade cooperation, and enhance the means that would achieve the objectives of the two friendly countries in various spheres. The conferees also touched on a host of issues at this meeting.

Talas Confers With Austrian Army Chief of Staff

JN2803160792 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] Damascus—Lieutenant General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, this morning received General Majcen, Austrian Army chief of staff, and the delegation accompanying him.

The talks dealt with the friendly ties between the Syrian Arab Army and the Austrian Army, and means of enhancing them.

General Majcen arrived in Damascus earlier on a friendly visit, during which he will inspect the Austrian unit operating as part of the UN Disengagement Observer Force in the Golan.

Afghanistan

Pro-Najibollah, Rebel Troops Still Clashing

BK2703143492 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 27 Mar 92 p 12

[Text] Peshawar—Situation in Kabul is reported to be highly tense in the wake of fierce skirmishes between contingents loyal to President Najib and rebel troops led by Gen Nabi Azami.

Reports say that fighting which started Tuesday night continued throughout the day on Wednesday. Both the sides are reported to have used heavy artillery at Kabul airport, Dar-ul-Aman Palace, and the outskirts of Kabul on the night between Wednesday and Thursday.

Reports emanating from Kabul say that contingents loyal to Najib stationed at the suburbs of Koh-i-Asmai Bibi Meero were heavily fired at about 2:30 a.m. Thursday from different directions. Confusion in Kabul has intensified after this fighting. Heavy snowfall and darkness prevent assessing the situation clearly. Eyewitnesses say that fighting has spilled over to Kabul Airport. There are also reports of blasts on Kabul Jalalabad highway and near Pul Charkhi.

Mojahedin Capture 400 Militiamen Near Herat

BK3003111192 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 30 Mar 92 p 1

[Excerpt] Peshawar, March 29—As a preliminary step to launch major operation on Herat city, the Afghan Mojahedin attacked the outer security belts of Herat city in the western Herat province of Afghanistan and captured 400 militamen and a large quantity of arms and ammunition.

Giving details of mojahedin successes in Herat, Syed Noorullah Emad, Naib Amir of Jamiat-e-Eslami Afghanistan told AFGHAN TAE NEWS AGENCY here today that the mojahedin in their one day operation around the city of Herat last Friday captured a cement factory in Rubat Paryan.

A number of forts including Rubat Afghanha Gila Safar Khan, Qila Nawak, Qua Khawaja Ha, Qila Yadgar, Gila Ghogha, Qila Delh Padeh Kushkak, Bad Isaba and Eeh Padeh Khurd. In the one day operation Mojahedin captured 400 militiamen and seized two tanks. Twenty PK machine guns, eight anti-tank Dhashakas, eleven ZK-1, 301 Klashnikov rifles and 150 vehicles including military trucks, loaders and some graders and land rollers.

After Herat city this was the second biggest military base of the regime in Herat province where divisions of Khad militia and Sarandoi police were stationed.

By capturing a vast area mojahedin opened the highway linking Zendeh Jan, Ghurian and Kushkak districts up to the border with Iran. [passage omitted]

Further on Mojahedin Operations

LD3003111192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] In a series of operations in Herat Province, the Muslim Mojahedin of Afghanistan captured 400 paramilitary mercenaries of the Kabul regime. An informed Afghan Mojahedin source in Islamabad told IRNA yesterday: In the course of these operation over 1,300 Kalashnikov rifles and 150 vehicles were seized by the Afghan Mojahedin.

10 Hezb-e Eslami Members Killed in Fighting

LD2803000292 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] Ten members of Golboddin's Hezb-e Eslami, including Zabet Abdul Wasay, one of its ringleaders, were killed in the course of heavy clashes which took place among them recently in the Deh Baba Ali region, Kapisa province.

According to a BAKHTAR report, in the course of these clashes both sides used heavy weapons and missiles against each other and another 17 people from the partied involved in the fighting were injured. The injured included Salah Mohammad Marst, a ringleader of Golboddin's Hezb-e Eslami.

As a result of the impact of heavy weapons and missiles on residential areas, 29 local people were injured and our compatriots also suffered considerable material damage.

More on Rival Group Clashes

LD2803161692 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] Heavy armed clashes have recently taken place between the Hezb-e Eslami group attached to Golboddin and the Jamiat-e Eslami and Harkat-e Eslami in some parts of the districts of Golestan and Khaki Safid in Farah Province.

According to a report by the military section of BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY, 14 people were killed, including Mohammad Daud—a ringleader of Jamiat-e Eslami, and 17 others were injured as a result of these clashes. During the fighting both sides used heavy weapons against the other's positions and centers.

Bangladesh

UN Envoy To Assess Burmese Refugee Situation

BK3003161692 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali's special envoy, Mr. Jan Eliasson, arrived in Dhaka today for an on-the-spot assessment of the Myanmar [Burmese] refugee problem. Talking to newsmen at the airport, Mr.

Eliasson said unabated influx of Muslim refugees from Myanmar into Bangladesh has caused great concern among the international community and there is a growing realization of the gravity of the situation. Describing the refugee situation as very sad, the UN envoy said he is looking forward to have a close look at the problem during his three-day visit to Bangladesh. Mr. Eliasson said that he will hold substantial talks with the Bangladesh sides on different aspects of the refugee issue. The aim of his talks in Bangladesh and Myanmar will be the safe and voluntary return of the refugees to their homes.

Replying to a question, he said the response of the international community to UN high commissioner for refugees appeal for assistance was good. He said the high commssioner, [name indistinct], has informed that nine million dollars of the total $27 million has already been committed. He sympathized with Bangladesh [words indistinct] number of refugees after a gigantic problem that it had faced in the wake of last year's catastrophic cyclone. Mr. Eliasson said that while he would visit the refugees in the camps in Bangladesh, the other half of the visit will be concentrated in Myanmar. His visit to Bangladesh follows Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's visit to New York recently where she drew the attention of the UN secretary general to the Myanmar refugee problem. Mr. Eliasson, who is UN under secretary general for humanitarian aid, has been asked by the UN secretary general to assess the situation. Mr. Eliasson will leave for Rangoon on Thursday next [2 April].

Minister Discusses Refugees, List Given to Burma

BK2903163492 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Text] Bangladesh has reiterated its commitment to resolve the Rohingya refugee problem peacefully through bilateral negotiations. Talking to newsmen in Dhaka today on return from the U.S.A., Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman said world opinion is with Bangladesh in its move toward a peaceful solution to the problem. Mr. Mustafiz said Bangladesh has urged the UN secretary general to use his good offices to bring about an early solution to the problem. Bangladesh, he said, needs immediate settlement of the problem that has caused tremendous strain on its limited resources.

Meanwhile, UN Under Secretary General Jan Eliasson arrives in Dhaka [on 30 March] for talks on the refugee problem. Mr. Eliasson, who is coordinator for humanitarian relief, will call on President Abdur Rahman Biswas and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia. During his stay in Bangladesh, Mr. Eliasson will hold two rounds of official talks. The first round of talks will be held on Tuesday [31 March], while the second round of talks will be held after his visit to refugee camps in Cox's Bazar. The visit is a follow-up action of the talks between Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and the UN secretary general, Butrus Ghali, during her recent visit to New York. Mr. Eliasson will leave Dhaka for Yangon [Rangoon] on the second of next month for talks on the refugee problem with the Myanmar [Burma] authorities.

Bangladesh has given to Myanmar another list of Rohingya refugees. The list of 11,080 refugees was given to the Myanmar Embassy in Dhaka today. With this list, the identity of over 39,000 Myanmar Muslim refugees has so far been handed over to Burma. More list of refugees will be given to Myanmar.

Official sources in Dhaka say more than 187,000 Rohingya Muslims have so far been registered at 12 refugee camps in Ramu, (Uthia), Teknaf and (Naikhampuri). The 12th camp was opened a few days back at (Chandum) under (Naikhampuri) upazila [subdistrict] to accommodate fresh arrival of refugees. Over 97,000 refugees have so far been given shelter in camps, while the rest are still spread over the Teknaf, (Uthia) and Ramu areas.

Border Corridor Agreement With India Welcomed

BK2703170292 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] Bangladesh has welcomed the understanding with India on Tin Bigha corridor. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said in Dhaka today that Bangladesh considers it as an important step forward not only to effectively exercising its sovereignty on the Dahagram and Angorpota, but also leading toward solving other outstanding issues between the two neighboring countries.

As already reported, Bangladesh and India signed yesterday an agreement for leasing out Tin Bigha corridor. The agreement was signed in New Delhi after a series of negotiations at different levels in the last 18 years. The agreement will be effective from the 26th of June this year. It will enable Bangladesh to link with enclaves Dahagram and Angorpota. India Foreign Secretary J.N. Dixt and Bangladesh Additional Foreign Secretary A.H. Mahmud Ali initialed the accord on behalf of their governments. Bangladesh and India reached the agreement to finalize leasing of corridor on the basis of the agreements between them signed in 1974 and 1982.

Dhaka University Tense After Student 'Rampage'

BK3003074992 Hong Kong AFP in English 0423 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] Dhaka, March 30 (AFP)—Dhaka University was tense Monday [30 March] after student activists belonging to an opposition political party attacked professors' homes and the faculty club, police and newspapers said.

The rampage was touched off when police, looking for weapons, arrested a leader and four other members of the Bangladesh Chatra League (BCL) in a surprise raid on a dormitory Sunday, police said.

BCL activists reacted by attacking the University Teachers' Club and the homes of Vice Chancellor Moniruzzaman Miah and the professor in charge of Zahurul Huq dormitory. Police fired tear gas and blanks, leaving at least 20 students injured, press reports said. One of the four arrested, Manjurul Alam Tokon, was wanted in connection with a murder of an opposition activist several months ago, police said.

The BCL is the student wing of Bangladesh's major opposition party, the Awami League, led by Sheikh Hasina Wajed. In the past year four student activists have died in gunfights between rival groups at Dhaka University, a hotbed of student politics.

Mock Court Sentences Rightist Leader to Death

BK3003075592 Hong Kong AFP in English 0427 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] Dhaka, March 30 (AFP)—The tension surrounding a death sentence imposed on a controversial rightist leader by a mock court here could lead to violence depending on what the government now decides, analysts said. "Golam Azam's trial in a public court was symbolic, but one cannot ignore people's sentiment on the issue and uncertainty dominates the country's politics now," a political observer said.

He said Prime Minister Khaleda Zia now has to decide what to do and much will depend on that decision.

The mock "people's court" organised by the self-styled Committee Against Butchers and Collaborators last Thursday, Bangladesh's independence day, "sentenced" Azam to death for alleged collaboration with Pakistan during the 1971 war of independence.

It took place in defiance of a government warning, and arrest warrants were issued late Saturday for the 24 people who organized the "trial", alleging seven criminal offences including conspiracy, illegal gathering and attempted murder.

The 24 presented themselves to a two-member High Court bench Sunday which granted them interim bail pending a hearing expected early this week.

Two days before the mock trial Azam had been arrested under the Foreigners' Act and detained in Dhaka's high-security Central Jail, after the government rejected his reply to a Home Ministry notice asking him to explain why he should not be prosecuted for violating the constitutional ban on foreigners in politics.

Azam, 70, who was in Pakistan when the 1971 war ended, was stripped of Bangladeshi citizenship the following year. He returned in 1978 from Saudi Arabia on a Pakistani passport.

In December he was elected leader of the right-wing Jamaat-E-Islami party, arousing a public outcry. Bangladesh's constitution bars foreigners from taking part in domestic politics.

"It was a welcome move on the part of the administration to arrest Azam...with the clear indication that the home ministry would now be looking at his possible deportation from Bangladesh," wrote S.M. Ali, editor of the independent DAILY STAR newspaper.

He added that it had strengthened the credibility of Zia's government.

But it also created another problem as the Jamaat helped Zia's Bangladesh National Party (BNP) come to power last year.

A reliable source said the Committee Against Butchers and Collaborators had been contacted by two government ministers and talks could be held to settle the issue by early April.

"Azam may be deported if the committee agreed to stop further campaign against the Jamaat," he added.

They also said the group planned to call for national work stoppages to protest the warrants, and that most opposition groups—excluding the Jatiya Party of deposed president Hussain Mohammad Ershad—had expressed support.

The Committee Against Butchers and Collaborators comprises veterans of the war with Pakistan, as well as widows and children of dead soldiers, cultural and political activists, teachers, students and members of various professional groups.

Thursday's mock trial was headed by Jahanara Imam, mother of a Bangladeshi soldier killed in the war. She has repeatedly said the trial was "symbolic," and not against the government or Bangladeshi courts.

Information Minister Mazmul Huda, defending the government's stance, noted that the trial had had the support of parliamentary opposition leader Sheikh Hasina Wajed.

"It was not a 'gono adalat' (Peoples' court), it was a 'Hasina adalat' (Hasina's court)," he was quoted as saying in the MORNING POST newspaper.

He said Wajed, leader of the opposition Awami League, had exposed herself by openly backing what he called an "unlawfully constituted people's court."

Wajed, he said, "was trying to create issues to destabilise democracy by not exercising tolerance after her party lost the elections" last year.

India

Former Union Carbide Chief's Extradition Sought

BK2703093492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] The chief judicial magistrate of Bhopal has ordered issue of nonbailable warrant of arrest to initiate

the extradition proceedings against the U.S. multinational Union Carbide Corporation's former chairman, Mr. Warren Anderson, for his nonappearance in the Bhopal gas tragedy case. The order was issued at the request of the CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation]. India and the United States have at present an extradition treaty.

Union Carbide Spokesman Cited

BK2803103092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] The U.S.-based multinational Union Carbide said any attempt to extradite its former chairman, Mr. Warren Anderson, to India will be disgraceful. In a statement, a spokesman of the Union Carbide admitted that the corporation held 50 percent stock in the Indian company but said Mr. Anderson was not involved in its operations. The chief judicial magistrate of Bhopal yesterday issued a nonbailable warrant of arrest to initiate extradition proceedings against Mr. Anderson in connection with the Bhopal gas tragedy case.

Solanki's Talks With Ukraine President Viewed

BK2703165692 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Mar 92

["External Affairs Ministry spokesman's briefing on External Affairs Minister Solanki's call on visiting Ukrainian President Kravchuk; dated 26 March 1992"; place not given]

[Text] Minister of External Affairs Solanki accompanied by Indian Ambassador in Moscow Gonsalves, Ambassador-Designate to Ukraine Sudhir Devare, and Joint Secretary (East Europe) Nalin Surie, called on President Kravchuk this afternoon. President Kravchuk was assisted by his foreign minister, his vice premier, and adviser to Presidium. Ukraine president said that India and Ukraine had all necessary preconditions to build a qualitively new relationship, foundation of which will be laid tomorrow when treaty of cooperation and friendship is to be signed.

External affairs minister reciprocating sentiments expressed by Ukraine president said that relations between India and Ukraine were inextricably interwoven over last 40 years. Even when Ukraine was a part of former Soviet Union, a very considerable part of India's cooperation in field of technical training, defense, steel, heavy industries, and oil industry was concentrated in Ukraine.

Ukraine president said that he was fully conscious of this deep foundation of our bilateral relationship and was confident that strengthening of this relationship would serve our mutual interests. He said that his meetings this morning with president, vice president, and minister of state for commerce had confirmed his assessment that there was great scope for forward movement in our bilateral relationship.

External affairs minister gave a detailed exposition to visiting president on basic foundations of our political and economic policies. He laid special emphasis on radical changes introduced in last 8 months, which had led to over 1,000 offers by different foreign investors.

Talking about position of Nonaligned Movement in changed historical context in post-cold war period, external affairs minister underlined its continuing relevance, for vital objectives of achieving nuclear disarmament and equitable economic development. Both these objectives constituted a core element of movement and informed thinking of founding fathers. External affairs minister said most countries of world accepted relevance of NAM, now second largest world organisation after UN with 103 members. This clearly was manifested in observer status sought by and granted to Germany and Holland. He said that it was significant that China also had made an application for being granted observer status.

Ukraine president expressed total agreement with EAM [external affairs minister] on question of nonalignment and said that it was Ukraine's declared policy to be a neutral and non-nuclear state. Ukraine shares values of NAM and did not wish to have any links with military pacts. It was determined to be a working partner of all progressive elements in world community. He was confident that such a firm and clear stand taken by Ukraine would have a significant influence in European affairs. He said that Belarus, and to a slightly lesser degree Kazhakstan, share policy objectives of Ukraine. He said that his country was hopeful that despite some adverse effects of disintegration of USSR, which was in essence last colonial empire, basic effects of these events would be positive.

EAM gave visiting Ukraine president a detailed account of India's foreign policy towards its neighbors, highlighting difficulties being faced with regard to Pakistan and its abetment of terrorism. He explained entire Kashmir problem in its historical perspective, and said that Indian leadership was convinced that only a peaceful solution within framework of Simla agreement was viable.

Ukraine president expressed his strong opposition to terrorist activity wherever it occurs and whoever indulges in it. He said that Ukraine was quite clear that problems could not be resolved in that way. As far as Kashmir was concerned, Ukraine position was clear. This problem had to be resolved peacefully through mutual negotiations. Ukraine president said that republics of former Soviet Union could appreciate difficulties that India was facing, as they themselves were confronted with similar problem in one or two republics. In this age where issues of one country were closely interconnected with problems of others, troubles in one area travelled quickly to others. Thus, territorial disputes in certain republics in former Soviet Union had because of this interconnection taken on dimensions of global problems. He said that Ukraine would spare no efforts to help

bring out peace in this region, which is one of most heavily populated and important in world.

Ukraine Offers Economic Experience

BK2703074092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] New Delhi has offered to share with Ukraine its experience in running a mixed economy. Speaking at a banquet yesterday in the honor of the visiting Ukraine president, Mr. Leonid Kravchuk, the president, Mr. R. Venkataraman, said India could together contribute to the establishment of a new just and equitable international order.

Friendship, Cooperation Accords Signed

BK2703095692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] India and Ukraine have signed the framework of an agreement for a treaty of friendship and cooperation. The two countries have also initialed agreements for cooperation in trade, economic matters, science and technology, and culture. This follows the talks between the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, and the visiting Ukrainian president, Mr. Leonid Kravchuk, in New Delhi today. The two leaders described the agreements as marking a qualitative new phase in the bilateral relations. The trade agreement provides for dealing both in convertible currency and other modes of exchange, including barter system. The Ukrainian side expressed interest in the import of Indian tea, coffee, fertilizers, rice, medicines, and raw materials, while India in Ukrainian products like metal scraps and hot rolled steel.

'Defense Spares' Will Continue

BK2703124492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] Ukraine has assured India that it will continue to supply defense spares. President Leonid Kravchuk told a news conference in New Delhi today that his country will not break the wide-ranging military links with India following the disintegration of the Soviet Union. He said Ukraine will adhere to the New Delhi declaration signed by Mr. Gorbachev and the late Rajiv Gandhi on disarmament.

Kravchuk on Weapons, Black Sea Fleet

BK2703140992 Hong Kong AFP in English 1327 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Excerpts] New Delhi, March 27 (AFP)—Ukraine plans to remove all tactical and strategic nuclear weapons deployed in its territory by the former Soviet Union this year and destroy them by 1994, Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk said here Friday. [passage omitted]

Kravchuk, whose delegation inked four treaties on military and trade cooperation with India, said his country did not believe in building up a nuclear arsenal.

"We will not change our position in this aspect", he said.

"Ukraine is not only going to sign the NPT (Nuclear Non-Profileration Treaty), but is preparing a document in this regard," he said after a two-hour meeting with Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao.

"Ukraine is going to participate in all United Nations work in this aspect," the visiting president said, adding his state did not believe in producing, deploying, or using nuclear weapons.

"These are the three principles we adhere to," Kravchuk said. [passage omitted]

On the sharing of assets of the dismantled Soviet Union, Kravchuk said he hoped the dispute between Russia and Ukraine over the ownership of the Black Sea fleet would be settled through negotiations.

"Ukraine stands for solving all sharp problems peacefully," he said, noting that CIS heads of state met last Saturday and signed a document pledging to resolve possible disputes over Soviet property on a "mutual basis." [passage omitted]

Kravchuk Stand on Kashmir Solution

BK2603160092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Text] Ukraine has supported India's stand that the Kashmir issue should be resolved peacefully through mutual negotiations. President Leondid Kravchuk, now in New Delhi, also said that his country condemns the use of terrorism to resolve disputes. He conveyed this during his talks with the external affairs minister, Mr. Madhasinh Solanki.

Ministers Say India Ready for Mideast Role

BK2703164692 Hong Kong AFP in English 1414 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] New Delhi, March 27 (AFP)—India is ready to participate in the Middle East peace talks, Indian ministers told a visiting Israeli diplomat here Friday [27 March].

Officials said the Indian Government's decision was conveyed to Israeli Foreign Ministry Deputy Director-General Moshe Yegar during his meeting with External Affairs Minister Madhavsinh Solanki and his deputy, Eduardo Faleiro.

New Delhi would "contribute constructively and meaningfully" to the talks, said officials who attended the meeting.

New Delhi was not a participant at the first round of peace talks in Madrid.

Yegar arrived in India earlier this week for discussions on the logistics of opening diplomatic missions in each

other's countries, following a rapprochment between New Delhi and Tel Aviv after four decades of political animosity.

Minister Asks for LTTE Leaders' Extradition

BK2703170492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, has asked Sri Lanka to speedily extradite the two LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] leaders—Prabhakaran and Potturaman—who have been declared proclaimed offenders as the main accused in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case. Mr. Chavan made the demand to the visiting Sri Lankan industry minister, Mr. Ranil Wickremasinghe, who met him in New Delhi today. He promised to cooperate with India in the matter.

French Help Sought To Trace LTTE Militants

BK2703073292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] India has sought the cooperation of France in the search for LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] militants wanted in connection with the assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and reportedly hiding in that country. The request was made by the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, during a meeting with the visiting French secretary of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Alain Vivien, in New Delhi yesterday. Mr. Faleiro said both countries can cooperate in combating terrorism which has become a global problem.

Spokesman Details Talks With French Minister

BK2603163192 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1435 GMT 26 Mar 92

["Spokesman's briefing on visit of Alain Vivien, minister of state for foreign affairs in France; dated 25 March 1992"; place not given]

[Text] While briefing newsmen, spokesman stated that Alain Vivien, minister of state for foreign affairs in France, called on External Affairs Minister [EAM] Madhavsinh Solanki. During his meeting with EAM, French minister said that France attaches greatest importance to a richer and deeper relationship with India. He said that in France's policy framework, India figured as a priority country. External affairs minister, while responding to remarks by French minister, said that India recognises France as a valuable colleague and a partner. He agreed with his French guest that there was need and scope for an invigoration of our bilateral relationship. French minister said that our trade and economic ties were, at present, well below their full potential. These needed to be given a much greater impetus, and for achieving this a more regular dialogue with India needed to be conducted. In this context, both ministers noted with satisfaction that French minister of industry will be visiting India shortly and that French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas was also planning to come to India before end of this year. French minister briefed external affairs minister about his recent visit to Central Asian republics and said that France was conscious of fact that India could exercise a stabilising influence in politics of this region; and that India was an important factor in Central Asian republics. French minister will be calling on minister of state for external affairs tomorrow.

Envoy Passes Message From al-Qadhdhafi to Rao

BK2703160092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Excerpt] A special Libyan envoy met the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, in New Delhi and handed over a message from Colonel Al-Qadhdhafi explaining the Libyan case in the UTA and Pan Am plane crash incidents. The envoy, Mr. (Al-Gaud), said that Libya desires to comply with the requirements of justice. The prime minister, while expressing the hope that a solution to meet the aims of justice will be found, made it clear that India is firmly against all forms of terrorism, especially state-supported ones. Meanwhile, the United States has accused Libya of using the International Court of Justice to undermine the UN Security Council. [passage omitted]

Afghan Wolasi Jerga Chairman Meets Solanki

LD2603222892 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Excerpt] The parliamentary delegation of the Republic of Afghanistan led by Dr. Khalil Ahmad Abawi, chairman of the Wolasi Jerga, which is on an official visit to India, met recently with Indian External Affairs Minister Madhav Singh Solanki. In the course of this meeting, Dr. Khalil Ahmad Abawi briefed the Indian external affairs minister about the recent development in the process of a political solution for Afghanistan. He stressed that the Indian Government, using its regional and international influence and as a great and creditable country, is not sparing any efforts and assistance in this direction.

The Indian minister pledged once again that the Indian Government will never leave alone the government and people of Afghanistan, with whom it has centuries of friendship, in achieving their aspiration for peace and the reconstruction of Afghanistan. He welcomed the good efforts made by esteemed Najibollah, president of Afghanistan, and the UN Secretary General toward a political solution for Afghanistan.

The delegation also met with the minister of parliamentary affairs. Talks were conducted in a sincere climate on bilateral relations and the expansion of interparliamentary ties. The minister of parliamentary affairs presented a gift of a golden decoration of the Republic of India to the head of Afghanistan's delegation as a memento. [passage omitted]

Delegation Attends Meeting

LD2603222692 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Excerpt] Dr. Khalil Ahmad Abawi, chairman of the Wolasi Jerga and head of Afghanistan's parliamentary delegation, yesterday attended a session of the Indian Lok Sabha. At the beginning of the session, Lok Sabha Chairman Shivfaj Patil welcomed the chairman of the Wolasi Jerga and his delegation.

Professor Shah Ali Akbar Sharestani, deputy chairman of Sena and a member of Afghanistan's parliamentary delegation, delivered a speech the day before yesterday at the headquarters of the Indian parliament on cultural and political relations between Afghanistan and India. The meeting, which was hosted by the International Affairs Commission of the Indian parliament, was attended by Merabudin Paktiwal and Rezwan Gol Tawana, senators of the Republic of Afghanistan; Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Ghulam Nabi Azad; a number of ambassadors of Islamic and friendly countries; and a large number of Indian personalities, scholars, and professors. [passage omitted]

Spokesman Decries Amnesty International Report

BK2603162992 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Text] The government today described as totally one-sided Amnesty International's latest report on alleged human rights violations in India. The official spokesman told reporters in New Delhi that the report is full of sweeping generalizations and inaccuracies. It lacks judicial restraint in its language and makes no mention of the assistance terrorists in Punjab and Kashmir have been getting from across the border. The spokesman said Amnesty's stand, that it could carry the version of the government in its next report, indicates that it wants to malign the country first.

Agricultural Agreement Signed With Cyprus

NC2703105392 Nicosia Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation Radio Network in Greek 1700 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Text] Cyprus and India signed a 5-year program for agricultural cooperation today. The agreement was signed in New Delhi by Ministers of Agriculture Andreas Gavriilidhis and Balram Jakhar.

Tomorrow Indian President Iyer Ramaswamy Venkataraman will receive Gavriilidhis, who will deliver a message from President Vasiliou.

Border Corridor on 'Perpetual Lease' to Bangladesh

BK2603141492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Text] The lease providing right of passage to Bangladesh through the Tin Bigha area will come into effect from the 26th of June. An understanding has been reached between India and Bangladesh through an exchange of letters today on the modalities for implementing the terms of the lease. Making a suo moto statement this afternoon, the minister for external affairs, Mr. Madhavsinh Solanki, in the Lok Sabha and his minister of state, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, in the Rajya Sabha, said with this India is fulfilling an international commitment.

The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has criticized the government's decision to transfer the Tin Bigha corridor to Bangladesh on the perpetual lease. Briefing newsmen, party leader Mr. L.K. Advani instead called for a comprehensive agreement that included the issue of Farakka barrage and infiltration.

Security Forces Alerted on Kashmir Control Line

BK2903155892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, security forces have been asked to remain vigilant all along the Line of Control [LOC] in view of the so-called JKLF [Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front] plans to cross it tomorrow. An official spokesman said in Jammu this evening that the sanctity of the LOC will be maintained at all costs. The state director general of police, Mr. B.S. Bedi, said in Srinagar that the district authorities have taken elaborate measures to maintain law and order. He said the curfew is continuing in the 5- km belt of the border. Meanwhile, Foreign Ministry officials in Islamabad have stated that Pakistan is taking all steps to check the crossing of the LOC. The authorities are maintaining a vigil on the vehicular traffic moving toward the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

Situation Along Border 'Normal'

BK3003080092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, the situation all along the Line of Control is normal and no activity has been seen in the border areas of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. An official spokesman said in the state's capital Jammu that security forces are maintaining a vigil all along the border to thwart any attempt of border violation by the Pakistan-based militant outfit the JKLF [Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front] today. He said the situation throughout the Kashmir valley is also normal. Security has been tightened in Srinagar and some other towns as a precautionary measure. No incident has, however, been reported from anywhere.

Punjab Chief Urges Militants To Give Up Arms

BK2903161292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Text] The Punjab chief minister, Mr. Beant Singh, has reiterated his call to militants to give up arms on the holy occasion of Baisakhi [Hindu-Sikh new year day] and join the mainstream of society. He was speaking at a function in Jullundur today. Mr. Beant Singh said he made the

offer of reciprocating suitably if the militants gave up violence, as his government does not want to harm its own children.

He said 446 of the 456 Akalis detained on the eve of elections have been released. The remaining 10 are involved in TADA [Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act] case. The chief minister presented 560,000 rupees through UTI [Unit Trust of India] certificates to 56 families affected by terrorist activities.

The Haryana chief minister, Mr. Bhajan Lal, says his government will not accept any proposal to refer the interstate dispute relating to the division of surplus Ravi-Beas water to the Supreme Court. He was addressing a public meeting in Jind today. On the Chandigarh issue, Mr. Bhajan Lal said that he stood by the Rajiv-Longowal accord which envisages simultaneous transfer of Fazilka and Abohar areas and certain other Hindi-speaking villages to Haryana in lieu of Chandigarh's transfer to Punjab.

Beant Singh Urges End to Violence

BK2703094692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] The Punjab chief minister, Mr. Beant Singh, has asked the militants to lay down their arms on the auspicious Baisakhi [Hindu-Sikh new year] day to end the continuing violence in the state. Replying to the three-day discussion on the motion of thanks to governor's address in the state legislative assembly today, Mr. Beant Singh said a reciprocal action on the part of the government will follow. The chief minister also announced waiving of loans up to 5,000 rupees given by cooperative department in the case of scheduled caste beneficiaries. He also announced that the cases relating to women and boys under 18 detained in the jails will be reviewed afresh. The innocent will be released shortly.

Police Fire on Protestors Over Militant's Death

BK2603134892 Hong Kong AFP in English 1329 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Text] Srinagar, India, March 26 (AFP)—Indian security forces opened fire Thursday [26 March] to break up a demonstration by Kashmiri Muslims protesting the rumoured death of an arrested Muslim militant, police said. Security forces fired warning shots in the air before firing into the crowd, injuring at least three people, the police sources said.

Some 15,000 people had gathered in the Dalal Mohalla area of downtown Srinagar after rumours of the alleged torture death of Muslim militant Javed Ahmad Shalla spread like wildfire, witnesses said. The demonstrators chanted anti-Indian slogans and demanded that Shalla be shown on television to prove he was alive.

Witnesses said police were allowing no movement in the downtown area after dispersing the protestors, although a curfew had not officially been clamped. The demonstration came as a general strike called to protest the arrest in Pakistan of top Kashmiri militant leader Amanullah Khan paralysed normal life in the entire valley. All shops were shut and transport stayed off the roads.

Khan, leader of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), was arrested in Rawalpindi Wednesday, apparently to foil his plans to storm the line of control dividing Kashmir into Indian and Pakistani zones on March 30. Pro-JKLF processions were staged in the interiors of Srinagar, Kashmir's summer capital and urban hub of the violent Muslim insurgency, with marchers shouting "Free Amanullah," witnesses said.

Public attention was diverted from Khan's arrest by rumours of Shalla's death. Shalla, one of Kashmir's best-known guerrillas, belongs to the Ikhwan-ul-Muslimeen militant group. He was arrested Tuesday along with a comrade, Mohammad Sadiq.

A top police official said a group of militants ambushed a police vehicle transporting the two men in Badgam town Wednesday, triggering a shootout during which they escaped. Three policemen were injured in the ambush, he said. He said he could not, however, rule out the possibility that the two men had been fatally wounded in the crossfire.

Ikhwan sources refused to accept the police account, saying they believed Shalla and Sadiq had been killed in cold blood. Thursday's anti-Indian protests came as the entire valley was cut off from the rest of India by heavy rainfall that triggered landslides, blocking the national highway. Air traffic was suspended because of bad weather.

Javed Ahmed Mir, the JKLF's commander in India, warned in a statement his group would launch an anti-Pakistan campaign if Khan was not freed immediately. "The arrest is not going to anyway dampen the spirits of our activists either in Pakistan or Pakistan-occupied Kashmir or in our state (in India)," he said.

Mir also reiterated the JKLF's decision to lead its supporters in Kashmir to the state's border with Pakistan-held Kashmir on March 30.

Khan's arrest was, however, welcomed by the outlawed Hizbul Mujahidin and Allah Tigers, which favour Kashmir's accession to Pakistan, unlike the JKLF that wants Kashmir to become independent of both New Delhi and Islamabad.

Bombs Damage Jamshedpur Airport Tower, Plane

BK2903092892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Text] In Bihar, violence and bomb explosions were reported from the tribal areas following the economic blockade called by the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha [JMM]. On the seventh day yesterday of the 13-day blockade,

miscreants hurled powerful bombs at Jamshedpur airport damaging the control tower and a stationary plane. Our Ranchi correspondent reports that train services in Chakradharpur division of the Southeastern Railway were disrupted. Loading and dispatch of coal, bauxite, and iron ore also remained paralyzed.

Former Uttar Pradesh Chief, Activists Arrested

BK3003090692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, the former chief minister and State Samajwadi Janata Party president, Mr. Mulayem Singh Yadav, was arrested this morning at Ram Snehi Ghat in Barabanki District along with more than 500 party activists. Mr. Mulayem Singh Yadav was on his way to Ayodhya to launch satyagraha in protest against alleged demolition of temples and some other structures.

Nagaland Legislative Assembly Dissolved

BK2703165892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] The Nagaland Assembly has been dissolved. A Raj Bhavan [governor house] communique issued at Kohima this afternoon said the assembly was dissolved on the recommendation of the chief minister, Mr. Vamuzo. The governor, Dr. M.M. Thomas, has however asked the Council of Ministers to continue in a caretaker capacity till fresh election is held. The dissolved Nagaland Assembly had an effective strength of 45 members with the ruling NPC [Nagaland People's Council] having 24 MLAs [members of legislative assembly] and the opposition Congress-I 19, besides two unattached members. The remaining 15 MLAs had earlier been disqualified under the anti-defection law.

The Nagaland chief minister, Mr. Vamuzo, has attributed the dissolution of the assembly to the political uncertainty in the state. Talking to our correspondent this evening, he accused the opposition Congress-I of engineering defections and attempting to topple his government. He said the government cannot be run with frequent defections leading to political instability and hence he has decided to take a fresh mandate from the people.

In another development, eight ministers withdrew support to the Vamuzo government today. In a joint press release, they accused the chief minister of indulging in rampant corruption and inefficiency to run the government even when he had the majority support in the state assembly.

The Home Minister Mr. S.B. Chavan has assured the Rajya Sabha today that he is ascertaining the facts regarding the dissolution of the Nagaland Legislative Assembly and will come to the house with them duly. The issue was raised by Mr. S.S. Ahluwalia of the Congress-I just before adjournment of the house. Mr. Chavan said that it is a serious matter and the government is consulting Law Ministry on the issue.

BJP Protests Price Rise, Stages Walk Out

BK2603091892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Text] The entire BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] group today walked out from both houses of parliament in protest against the rising prices and, what they called, the wrong economic policies of the government. Earlier, the BJP leader, Mr. L.K. Advani, said in the Lok Sabha during zero hour that his party is holding a demonstration throughout the country today to highlight economic mismanagement. In the Rajya Sabha, raising the issue during zero hour, the party leader, Mr. Sikander Bukht, said the people all over the country are suffering from the rising prices because of, what he called, the wrong economic policies followed by the government.

Parliament Passes Budget, Gives Concessions

BK2603155692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Text] The finance minister has announced concessions totalling 245 crore rupees to industry. The import duty in projects, imports, and general machinery has been reduced to 55 percent from the proposed 60 percent. The customs duty on components for fuel-efficient light commercial vehicles has been restored to 50 percent from the 80 proposed in the budget. Duty on light commercial vehicles has also been reduced to 10 percent from 15 percent. Replying to the three-day debate on budget proposals in the Lok Sabha, Dr. Manmohan Singh said he would announce changes, if any, in the direct taxes at a time of moving the finance bill for consideration in the house. Dr. Singh said the increase in the import duty on rags has been withdrawn. The duty has been restored to 35 percent from 110 percent. The finance minister said these concessions will help promote investments in export areas, reduce the burden on the light commercial vehicle industry and help small-scale shoddy wool units.

Dr. Manmohan Singh declared that the government is determined to control inflation in the coming months and there will be no let up in the fiscal corrections. Replying to the three-day debate on the budget in the Lok Sabha, he resolutely defended the new economic policy and refuted the charges that the budget proposals are anti-poor and pro-rich. Quoting extensively from the Congress-I manifesto, he said that he had neither adopted IMF model, nor yielded to external pressures. Dr. Singh said even in the area of foreign investments, the proposals have not gone beyond the stated policy. He said the country is still facing the problem of maintaining an equilibrium in its economy. The foreign exchange resources have risen to a comfortable position. He said without adopting a sound economic policy, there can be no anti-poverty programs

The Lok Sabha today approved the general budget for 1992-93 by a voice vote. The house also passed relevant appropriation vote on account bill authorizing the government to withdraw money from the Consolidated Fund of India for the services for a part of the next financial year. The house also approved supplementary demands of grants for the current year and the relavant appropriation by a voice vote.

Institute Identifies Source of Seized AK-47's

BK3003071892 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Text] Experts of the Central Forensic Science Institute in Calcutta have been able to trace the original source of the so-called AK-47 seized from terrorists in different parts of the country. They say that these findings will help security agencies to track down terrorist gangs smuggling these weapons from several countries. Our Calcutta correspondent Rudranath Sanyal has filed this report:

[Begin recording] Arms and ammunition seized from terrorists and criminals operating in different parts of India are often brought to the Central Forensic Sciences Laboratory in Calcutta. Here ballistic and forensic tests are carried out to identify their place of origin. Sophisticated gadgets like high-speed cameras and comparison microscopes are used for this purpose. In the course of one of these tests, it was found that the rifles of the AK-47 family seized from terrorists are not always of Russian or Chinese make. Most of these rifles are in fact modified folded-stock version of the original Russian AK-47 rifle. They, however, look almost identical and do not bear any trademark, even though they are manufactured in different countries. But forensic experts have now identified some special markings on these rifles to trace their country of origin. These markings are found near the levers of the rifles. The Chinese rifles have the letters L and D written on them. The ones from Czechoslovakia have the figures 30 and 1. The ones from Finland have three dots on the top and one dot at the bottom. The rifles from Romania bear the letters FA and FF, and the ones manufactured in Hungary have the symbol of infinity with the figure 1. With the help of these markings, experts were able to figure out that the rifles used by the Sri Lankan terrorists are mostly from Hungary and Romania. [end recording]

Parliament Briefed on Missile System Production

BK2603160692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Text] The delivery of surface-to-surface missile Prithvi and short-range surface-to-air missile Trishul to the armed forces is expected to start from next year. In a written reply, the defense minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, informed the Rajya Sabha today that production of medium-range surface-to-air missile Akash and third generation anti-tank missile Nag is likely to start from 1994-95.

Iran

Khamene'i on Palestinians, Majles Elections

LD2703150792 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1050 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Second Friday prayers sermon delivered by Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, at Tehran University on 27 March—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted]

Today is International Jerusalem Day. This is a day when one of the most essential issues for Muslims worldwide—perhaps one could say the most essential issue of the world of Islam—is raised. You, our beloved nation, marched, held gatherings, and powerfully showed your presence. I sincerely thank you all, brothers and sisters, in Tehran and other cities in the country. Undoubtedly Muslims in other parts of the world also carried out this general Islamic duty.

I must tell you about three subjects in this second sermon. First, about the Palestine issue; second, a reference to the present state of Islam and world developments; and third, the elections, one of most crucial issues relating to our future internally.

Regarding the Palestine issue, there is an extremely bitter point in this issue. Issues related to Palestine are bitter, but to be fair, this point is most stinging. The point is that in all the world propaganda during the 45 years that have passed since the occupation of Palestine, especially during the last two decades, efforts have been made to depict the Jews who have come and seized Palestine as innocent people who have rights, and are under pressure and tyrannized. The Arabs who are endeavoring to take back their own homes are depicted in world propaganda as violent, bullying people; as people with no principles. In the world, American and Zionist propaganda established this great lie, this unparalleled deception. This is most stinging and bitter. They even observe this when they show films and pictures. When they want to take pictures of Arabs for their magazines or papers, the scenes they choose are not those of innocent, homeless, and tyrannized women and children; they do not show young people perishing at the hands of tyrant Zionists and being deprived of the world's gifts and all the blessings on earth. This they do not show. They show a rough, veiled face, with the Arab headdress and a rifle in his hands, and say here they are.

On the other hand, let's assume the Russian immigrants who wanted to... [pauses] Russian Zionists and Jews who wanted to go to Palestine. When they show them, they do not say that they are usurpers. They are not Palestinians who want to go there. They are from Russia, from Ukraine, from European states, from America. Each has a place of his own, a home, wealth, and a life in his own homeland. They come to Palestine and take over the

Palestinian's rights, homes, and space; usurp their wealth and territory; take away the possibility of their forming families. World propaganda does not show this. They show a bunch of exhausted women and children so that the people of the world will say: The poor, helpless ones! Why do Arabs treat those wretched, innocent ones so? Look! This is the manifestation of world arrogance. This is the new world order the Americans talk about. It means that they do something so that the whole world thinks the way they want it to think, and understand the realities backwards.

The issue of Palestine is unprecedented in history. A nation was turned out of its own state. A sector of a nation was expelled from one place to another. The Iraqi regime expelled a group from its country; 1,000 people, 100,000 people, 1 or 2 million people. But to turn a whole nation out from their homeland, take away the name of their homeland, and attempt to delete the identity of that land from geography and history! Such a thing has never happened.

If this were to happen to a non-Muslim state, what would the European powers do? If this happened in another area, rather that this crucial area— which is an Islamic area—what would the world powers do? The opposite was done here. Here they helped with this great usurpation, this unparalleled tyranny, this act with no parallel in the world. Maybe not in the past either; it is most obvious that it has not occurred in our time. [passage omitted]

The truth of the matter is that a nation has been made homeless, and it has the right to come back to claim its home. This is a just struggle. America calls this just struggle terrorism, but does not call the malevolence of the Zionists toward the struggle terrorism. Look how logic in the minds of this self-proclaimed shepherd, leader of mankind today... [pauses] Look how much reality is turned upside down in their hands, by their actions. Look how far they are from the truth, from humanity. What an inhuman policy!

Without being at war, the Zionists enter Lebanon; they martyr a competent and lofty individual, the late Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi. They not only killed him, but also his wife and child. Yet you Americans do not condemn it. Therefore, you are supporters of oppression; why do you deny it? You support aggression; you support terror. There could be no terrorism more blatant than that.

Yet, they call it terrorism when a few Palestinian youths—to whon Palestine belongs; Palestine is their home— risk their lives to go and perform an action in Palestine against the usurper government and then return. Is that terrorism? What gives you the right to distort the facts and yet think of yourself as if you are right? That is what the nations must understand. The Americans themselves—that is, the ringleaders of the American regime—know only too well what they are doing. I think that even the American people do not know what mischief the Americans are perpetrating all over the world.

State terrorism today is one of the most obvious acts of the Americans. [audience chants]

State terrorism means that a government resorts to terrorist acts. What do terrorist acts mean? It means that a government flies its planes to another country, without any permission, to bomb the house of the head of that country. That is what it did in Libya where, it is said, it killed a small child. [passage omitted]

What terrorist acts are more violent and more oppressive than what the Zionists are performing today, and which America approves? We see on television that in a country the people demonstrate, and the police react with violence. Well, such scenes can be seen in many countries and we see them on television. Yet no police confrontation with the people is so violent, so mischievous, and so full of anger as that of the Zionists against the people of Palestine. Yet, the policeman who attacks the people in Palestine is an alien, while the protesting youth who is being so badly beaten is the owner of the house. [audience chants "Death to Israel"]

Well, you should note that the Iranian nation is aware of that. Other nations should understand, and thank God, many Muslim nations and liberal nations of the world are more or less aware of the situation.

What we want to say is that this usurpation has gone on for 45 years. Whenever Arab governments and Palestinian organizations have given in, the enemy has become more blatant and rough. The result is that the Palestinian nation has only one course of action for its salvation; that is, violent struggle and self-sacrifice, which should take place inside and outside the occupied lands. [audience chants "God is great," "Khamene'i is the leader"]

It is the duty of all Muslims to help. This is an Islamic struggle.

The second subject is connected to the Palestinian issue a great deal. The enemies of Islam were reluctant to say that they opposed Islam. They said they were for Islam, but opposed Islamic extremism, as it were. Then Islam made progress in the last decade—you saw its examples in Africa, in Algeria, Sudan, north African countries, Asia, Central Asia, and the former Soviet states—and showed that it has been revived. At that stage, the enemies of Islam realized they had no alternative but to declare their position. They could no longer pretend not to be hostile to Islam. Therefore, they clearly stated that they are opposed to Islam.

It is the people's Islamic faith and actions that are appearing in the Central Asian republics, the former Soviet republics, today. The Americans are worried. In many of those republics, there was no movement or uprising for the establishment of an Islamic republic like

ours. It was merely for the presence of Islam. The Americans became nervous, mobilized their forces and agents, and forced governments close to them to prevent Iran from making progress in those countries. [passage omitted]

They want to fight Islam. Their conclusion is that one of the ways to fight Islam is to fight the Islamic Republic. They only say they want to establish ties with the Islamic Republic, but it is a lie. They do not want a healthy relationship, they want a relationship coupled with imposition, a relationship mixed with arrogance, a relationship like that between America and deviant and corrupt regimes. The American regime has no option but to say that today.

To undermine the Islamic Republic of Iran in world opinion, in American popular opinion, and—if they could—in public opinion inside the country, they will resort to any slander against the Islamic Republic. They portray the Islamic Republic as anti-democratic and reactionary, and a republic that supports old and outdated principles. At the same time, they themselves know that they are wrong. They know that freedom and democracy in the Islamic Republic is unparalleled compared to the countries of this region. There is no country in the Persian Gulf or the Middle East in which the people taste freedom to this extent. The people of Iran are blessed with this, thank God. [passage omitted]

Pay attention: Today, the majority—I should say the vast majority—of this people support the Islamic Republican system. They are linked to the Islamic Republic. They love the Islamic Republic's officials with all their being. They adore them. There is a small minority here and there—those left over from the previous regime or those who are under the influence of foreign enemies—who are opposed to the Islamic Republic. Of course, these opponents exist. Even this small minority can have their say. They openly give their verdict—in their newspapers, magazines, and publications. Of course, Almighty God will disgrace His opponents. He will expose the oppressors.

Some of those people are using the God-given right, the product of the martyrs' blood. They put out publications and write that there is no freedom. May God disgrace them! If there is no freedom, how could you write this? How could you publish this? [passage omitted]

They try to make the future look bleak and obscure to the people. If you sometimes see people making pessimistic remarks about the country's economic situation and future, those words originate from arrogance. They give the impression that our economic situation is hopeless in their publications. No it is not, it is good. They do not want the people to be optimistic; they want to make them despondent, to create a rift between the people and the government, the officials, and the public servants. That is the extent of arrogance's enmity toward us.

America knows that if she subjects this country to military invasion, she will lose, as they supported Saddam's regime for many years and lost out. They know that any form of military invasion against the Islamic Republic and this nation would be disadvantageous to the invader. They understand that. They want to deal a blow by other means. Of course, they have economic blockades, villainy, or sabotage of trade. They also have propaganda—they say the situation is bad, nothing can be done, and there is no freedom in the country. They ask a bunch of wretched mercenaries who are really pitiable—those writers who have gone to Europe and America and have become employees of foreign governments and the enemy—to write things and print them in a number of publications abroad, and say things against the Islamic Republic.

Reality is the opposite of that. The truth is that, thank God, Islam has grown in this country. The nation has reached maturity; its strength is growing daily. The system gains more and more experience. Despite all the pressure exerted by the enemies on this country and this nation, the caring officials and this government are steering the ship of the Islamic Republic in this stormy sea with dignity and steadfastness on a straight course. That would not be, but for God's grace and blessing. [audience chants "God is great"]

I want to mention the issue of the elections. I want to say just a few brief things about the elections. First, the Iranian nation should consider participation in the elections to be a religious duty; a necessary duty. The enemy has mobilized all its propaganda forces—much of its propaganda forces—to do something so that the elections are not well received, so that they can say: Yes, after the Imam [Khomeyni], no good elections were held, with the nation taking part.

All those people, the ones we know—the opposition groups, the wagers of war, the mercenaries of the United States who are based in the United States and in other places—have, since a month or a month and a half ago, begun efforts in their news machinery, radios, and newspapers in an attempt to have these elections not turn out very well; that is what all their efforts are aimed at.

What is their aim? They want to be able to say that these elections, which are being held in the Imam's absence, are not well received by the people. They keep recommending to the Iranian people that they should not take part; even though they have already tried this and seen that whenever they tell the people not to take part in something, the people are given an additional motive to oppose them, and they take part even more. [crowd chants]

Even though they know that the nation will act against their wishes, they continue their pleading requests on their radios, saying to the people: Do not take part in the elections! Let me say this to you: As a primary duty, as a secondary duty, as a religious Islamic duty, as a political duty, the participation of every single individual in our

forthcoming elections—which will take place toward the end of Farvardin [month beginning 21 March]—is necessary for everyone, God willing. They must perform this task, and in doing so we will inflict a heavy blow on the United States; arrogance; grouplets; and the opponents of Islam, Muslims, and the Islamic Republic.

The next point is this: [audience chants "Death to America"]

Please pay attention. This Majles is the people's own Majles. It does not belong to the khans [big landlords or aristocrats]. It belongs to every individual member of society. The representative who is elected must care for the people; and must be frank, sincere, and willing to work for the people. There are those who pretend to work, and yet do not really work. That will not do. [passage omitted]

Moreover, the representative must have political understanding and intelligence. He must understand the problems of the country—both foreign problems—the enemies' plots—and domestic problems, such as the people's needs and the priorities of the country. It must not be such that without observing the priorities, a point is raised or a slogan is chanted by the Majles representatives that may create problems for the nation and the government. [passage omitted]

More important than everything else, he must be devoted to religion. Only a religious representative will be motivated to serve the people for the sake of God, whether or not the people appreciate it. He who tries to show off a service which he has not done is not religious. The religious person is one who serves the people, makes efforts in drafting laws, is in the majority party of the Majles and in the Majles committee, and yet is indifferent to whether his efforts are appreciated or not. That is the benefit of being religious and committed to the revolution and its principles. [passage omitted]

The third point is that today, in this turbulent sea, which you can see around you in the world, the officials of the country—and more specifically the Government of the Islamic Republic—carry a heavy burden on their shoulder. Since I am familiar with the affairs from close quarters, I can see how hard our popular, devoted, and hardworking president is working with his aides—the ministers and government department heads. It is difficult to manage the affairs of the state, especially against the seas of trouble which our enemies create for us. That is not easy.

Now suppose we elect a representative to go to the Majles to enact the necessary laws, to enable the officials of the country and the duly elected government of the people to carry out their work. When he comes to the Majles, however, he uses the Majles platform to attack and obstruct the government. What kind of a representative is such a person? Is this what the people want? Is this what the spirit of the Imam wants? [passage omitted]

The Imam may have personally liked some prime ministers or presidents and supported them. His support was not because of his personal preferences. He used to say we had to support whoever was responsible to run the affairs of the state.

Now please look at the past 11 years. Which head of government was ever comparable to him—to the head of our present government, to our current president? Which one of them was as trusted by the Imam as he was? Which one has served the revolution as much as he has? If the Imam were with us now, he would strongly support the present government.

Despite all that [is it wise] to send somebody to the Majles—the people vote to send somebody to the Majles—only to see that he goes to the Majles to attack the Government; to use the resources of Majles to write and tell lies? I have not told you, the people, about much of the mischief in the Majles. I did not want to leave a bitter taste in the mouth of our dear people. I used to say to myself that this period would come to an end and we would be rid of it. How can the people be ready to vote for those who distorted the truth to return to the Majles? Of course, their number is limited. The great majority of the Majles representatives—whether from Tehran or other areas—were honorable and caring. But a handful were also here and there.

I refer to that as a yardstick. There are those who obstruct the work of the officials of the country, those who do not observe piety in their speeches, those who talk in a way to attract some votes. Such people are not qualified to come to the Majles. That is what I referred to as mischievous elements. They must be identified so that the people will not vote for them.

As for the last point regarding the election, the Council of Guardians and the Ministry of Interior are making efforts; I trust them both. During screening, some are rejected; some are not approved. It must not be such that in some towns, agitators entice the people to protest. Then 100 or 200 people may gather to say no. [as heard] These things must not happen. I heard that in one town, some 100 or 200 people gathered and asked why such-and-such candidate had been rejected. Well, you must trust your officials. They are trustworthy. Maybe they detected something, and so they have rejected the candidate. If you have any protests, then you must write a letter. To assemble at some place is the work of the agitators. These are the same arrogant hands who try to prevent the election from being held in a sound manner. [passage omitted]

U.S., Israel Called 'Number One Enemies'

LD2703113992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] In their resolution, participants at the ceremonies marking International Jerusalem Day declared that the Iranian nation will always regard the United States and

the Zionist regime as its number one enemies, and that it will continue to support the oppressed children of Palestine until the liberation of honorable Jerusalem. Stating that jihad and martyrdom provide the only way to liberation from the shameful domination of the Zionist regime, they invited all Islamic countries to support the strugglig Palestinian heroes.

Renewing their bond with the guardian of the cause of the Muslims [Vali-ye Amr], and His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the dear leader of the Islamic revolution, the marchers announced that they are ready to rise, side by side with their Palestinian brothers, for jihad against usurper Israel, and in defense of beloved Jerusalem.

The resolution condemned Israel's crime and savagery in martyring the great allamah, Martyr Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi, his innocent spouse, and child; and all honorable, revolutionary youth across the world are called upon to avenge the blood of those children of the prophet on the enemies of Islam.

In their resolution, the marchers condemned the Turkish Government's impounding of a ship carrying a consignment for Iran, and demanded the unconditional release of the ship and its cargo. They announced that unless appropriate action is taken in this regard, the nation and Government of Iran will take a stand against this illogical and illegal behavior.

Condemning the brutal crime of the Myanmar [Burmese] Government in making defenseless Muslims homeless, the marchers called on international forums—especially Islamic forums and countries—to respond appropriately to those crimes.

Referring to the elections for the fourth Majles session, the marchers' resolution declared that, as in the past, they will participate widely in the elections and demonstrate that the Iranian nation supports the objectives of the revolution under any circumstances, and will safeguard its achievements.

Jerusalem Archbishop Speaks at Tehran Rally

LD2703141192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Excerpts] The Islamic ummah of Iran, alongside the world's Muslims, honored International Jerusalem Day today with vibrant shouts of "Death to Israel." The ummah of Islamic Iran participated extensively in the International Jerusalem Day rallies, and once again condemned the Zionist regime and announced their continuing and categorical support for the oppressed people of Palestine. They called for the liberation of the occupied territories of Palestine from the claws of usurper Israel. [passage omitted]

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution, participated in today's International Jerusalem Day march in Tehran. Announcing his abhorrence of the vicious atrocities committed by the occupiers of Jerusalem, he stressed the liberation of noble Jerusalem.

We draw your attention to our correspondents' reports from Tehran: [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] At the end of the rally, the fasting marchers went to Tehran University, the rendezvous place of the lovers of God, and performed religious, political, and enemy-crushing Friday Prayers under the leadership of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the honorable leader of the Islamic revolution. [passage omitted]

Before the Friday prayers ceremonies, Monsignor [Augustine] Cappuchi, the archbishop [as heard] of Beyt ol-Moqaddas [reference to Jerusalem], who is in Tehran to participate in the International Jerusalem Day ceremonies, spoke briefly to the prayer-givers. He honored International Jerusalem Day and underlined the defense of Jerusalem and the struggle against Zionism. [passage omitted]

[Tehran IRNA in English at 1109 GMT on 27 March in a similar report notes: "Archbishop Cappuchi from Qods [Jerusalem] who is an anti-Zionist activist participated at the demonstrations here today. As the first speaker to demonstrators before the Friday congregational prayers, the Christian cleric read out a message from the struggling people of Lebanon to Iran's Muslim people. Archbishop Cappuchi served four years at a Zionist prison on charges of sympathetic feelings towads the Palestinians."]

Embassy Again Denies Involvement in Bombing

LD2803104292 Tehran IRNA in English 0614 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] Tehran, March 28, IRNA—The Iranian Embassy in Buenos Aires Friday denied Iran's connection with the recent bomb explosion at the Israeli Embassy in the Argentinean capital.

The embassy in a statement stressed that such baseless allegations are made by those whose policies are intertwined with suppression and terrorist activities who aim to mar Iran-Argentina relations. In an earlier statement on March 19 the Iranian Embassy had denied any involvement in the explosion.

A car bomb devastated the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires on March 17 killing 29 people and wounding 225 others. The Islamic Jihad Organization of Lebanon claimed responsibility for the attack saying that it was to avenge the Zionist regime for martyring Hezbollah leader Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Abbas al-Musawi, his wife and son on February 16.

Pakistan

Police Fire Warning Shots To Disperse Marchers

BK3003102492 Hong Kong AFP in English 1023 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] Muzaffarabad, Pakistan-controlled Kashmir, March 30 (AFP)—Police opened fire in the air and lobbed tear gas shells to disperse Kashmiri militants who began to march Monday [30 March] to storm the state's border with India, party sources said.

Despite a heavy police and paramilitary presence, about 100 activists of the Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) flouted a ban on gatherings and assembled here to proceed to the border town of Chinari.

Heavily armed police contingents blocked the marchers. After failing to quell the demonstrators with a baton charge they fired the tear gas canisters and later fired warning shots, the sources said.

There was no word on casualties.

Kashmiri Leaders Arrested

BK3003054092 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Sardar Mohammad Abdul Qayyum Khan has stated again that the government will not allow anybody to go from Muzaffarabad to Chinari and Chakothi to cross the Line of Control. Talking to newsmen in Muzaffarabad yesterday, he said it is the responsibility of the Azad Kashmir Government to save the precious lives of innocent people from being killed by Indian troops in an effort to cross the Line of Control. He added that a coordination cell has been set up to monitor the situation created out of the proposed Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front's march today.

According to the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN, Barrister Sultan Mahmud, Izhak Zaffar, and Sardar Khalid Ibrahim were taken into custody in Muzaffarabad yesterday. Earlier, they had declared they would march from Muzaffarabad to Chakothi in violation of the orders.

Prime Minister Defends Measures

BK2903154392 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Text] Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Sardar Mohammad Abdul Qayyum Khan has said the sole objective of preventing the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front workers from crossing the Line of Control is to avoid the loss of precious human lives. Talking to a group of intellectuals in Muzaffarabad today, he said the government is justified in taking appropriate steps in order to save the lives of innocent people.

The Azad Jammu and Kashmir administration has taken all steps to prevent marchers from Muzaffarabad to Chinari and Chakothi. Contingents of police and paramilitary forces have been deployed on all routes leading to the Line of Control.

Pakistani Flags Raised in Azad Jammu, Kashmir

BK3003113892 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] In Azad Jammu and Kashmir [AJK], Pakistani flag has been fluttering all along as part of a week-long Azm-i-Takmil-i- Pakistan [pledge for completion of Pakistan] campaign concluding today. Pakistani flags can seen on all private and public buildings, houses, vehicles, important points along roads, thoroughfares, and (?schools). Workers of all the political parties in the liberated territory are actively participating in the campaign of hoisting Pakistani flag. The AJK political parties [words indistinct] at their joint meeting in Islamabad on the 20th of this month had decided to hoist the Pakistani flag during the campaign to express their solidarity with the people of Pakistan and to demonstrate to the world that Kashmiris have linked their destinies with Pakistan and they want accession of Jammu and Kashmir to Pakistan.

Talking to Radio Pakistan's special correspondent in Muzaffarabad this afternoon, the AJK prime minister, Sardar Mohammad Abdul Qayyum Khan, said there was complete normality in the liberated territory and no untoward incident had been reported from anywhere. He stated that less than 100 people have been taken into preventive custody in Azad Jammu and Kashmir with a view to avoiding law and order situation. The AJK prime minister pointed out that no report had ever been received of concentration of JKLF [Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front] workers from anywhere along the Line of Control.

Sharif on Kashmir, Nuclear Issue, Afghanistan

BK2703161292 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1415 GMT 27 mar 92

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, has praised the stand taken by the Saudi Government on the Kashmir issue. In an interview in the mass circulated Saudi daily 'UKAZ, the prime minister said the situation in occupied Kashmir is a cause of anxiety because of massing of troops by India on a massive scale to prevent the Kashmiris from exercising their right of self- determination.

The prime minister reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to the policy of using nuclear technology for peaceful purposes only. He welcomed the agreement with India against aggression on each other's nuclear installations. He also reiterated Pakistan's desire to make South Asia a nuclear-weapons-free zone.

Expressing views on the latest developments in Afghanistan, the prime minister said that the UN special envoy on Afghanistan has achieved some success within the framework of his mission for the establishment of an interim Islamic government. He stressed that the Afghan issue continues to occupy a preeminent position among Pakistan's priorities and pointed out to the pressing need for an urgent political solution of this problem.

The prime minister also lauded the progress and prosperity achieved by Saudi Arabia under the leadership of Khadimul Haramain Sharifain [custodian of two holy shrines] King Fahd.

Government Clamps Down on JKLF in Muzaffarabad

BK2903092992 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 29 Mar 92 p 1

[Text] Muzaffarabad—Authorities adopted stern measures Saturday [28 March] to restrict activities of the JKLF [Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front] in the state capital. The district magistrate of the capital has imposed a ban on all types of gathering, processions, and rallies by enforcing section 144. However, some protest processions in different parts of the city were taken out but the participants were dispersed by the police and the Punjab Constabulary.

Heavy contingents of the Punjab and Frontier Constabularies were seen patrolling at different roads of the city. The JKLF sources said that the police and other state official continued raiding at different places to make more arrests but nobody had been arrested during the raids.

An informed source told THE NEWS that the Srinagar/Muzaffarabad road has been cordoned off and pickets were established at important points.

Minister on 'Constructive' Dialogue With India

BK2603152292 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1415 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Text] Pakistan would continue its efforts to engage India in a constructive and meaningful dialogue for a peaceful settlement of the Kashmir dispute and other outstanding differences so that a climate of peace and harmony could develop in South Asia conducive to progress of its people. This was stated by the minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, at a meeting with media representatives in Islamabad today, during which he gave a comprehensive exposition of government's foreign policy. He said the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, in his numerous meetings with his Indian counterpart had called for a dialogue on the Kashmir issue. Pakistan, he said, would continue to extend moral, diplomatic, and political support to the indigenous struggle of the people of Indian-occupied Kashmir for the exercise of their right to self-determination in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions. He emphasized that these resolutions provide the people of Kashmir with the option of acceding to Pakistan or to India through a free and impartial plebiscite under UN auspices. Referring to the resolutions adopted on Kashmir by the sixth Islamic summit conference, the ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] summit, and the European parliament, he said these reflected the government's success in increasing international awareness of the gravity of the situation in the Indian-occupied Kashmir.

The minister of state emphasized that Pakistan was committed to a comprehensive political settlement of the Afghanistan issue. Pakistan, he said, would continue its support to the UN secretary general's five-point plan and his proposal to convene Afghan assembly for establishing an interim government in Kabul. The minister of state said that Mr. Najibollah's statement of 18 March has brightened the prospects of a peaceful settlement of the Afghanistan issue.

Elaborating the government's policy on the nuclear issue, Mr. Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo pointed out that Pakistan's nuclear program was entirely peaceful in character. Pakistan remains committed to the objectives of developing nuclear energy and technology for peaceful purposes as well as nuclear nonproliferation. Pakistan, he said, has made a number of proposals to ensure nonproliferation in the South Asian region and the prime minister's proposal of 6th June last year for five-nation consultations was the latest move by Pakistan in this respect. He said that with the exception of India, this proposal has been accepted by all other parties, that is the United States, Russia, and China. The minister of state regretted that India has not so far accepted any of the proposals made by Pakistan for preventing nuclear proliferation in South Asia. He said that at the same time for obvious security reasons, Pakistan could not forego its option unilaterally. The minister of state stressed that Pakistan's foreign policy was firmly anchored in national interest.

Minister on 'Perpetual Tension' With India

BK3003062092 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] Elahi Bux Sumroo, federal minister for science and technology, has said that Pakistan wants to normalize relations with India. Talking to Indian High Commissioner S.K. Lamba in Islamabad yesterday, he said living in the state of perpetual tension is against the interests of both countries. He said Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif desires early settlement of the Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN resolutions. Pakistan expects a similar goodwill response from India.

The meeting also discussed matters of mutual interest.

Minister Goes to Iran for Talks on Afghanistan

BK3003064492 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mohammad Siddique Kanjoo left Islamabad for Tehran last night. He will hold talks with Iranian leaders on the Afghanistan issue with special reference to the UN efforts to convene a representative Afghan assembly at the end of next month. Mohammad Siddique Kanjoo will also hold talks with matters of mutual interest during meetings with Iranian leaders.

Causes of Sharif Dispute With ANP Explored

BK2903094992 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 29 Mar 92 p 7

[Editorial: More Trouble For The Prime Minister]

[Text] Are Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's political troubles growing? The latest source of trouble comes from the Awami national party (ANP) in the NWFP [Northwest Frontier province] This has happened in quick succession to Mr Sharif's break with another former ally, the NPP [National People's Party] of former prime minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi over the latter's teaming up with the People's Party in Sindh. This led the Prime Minister to sack Mr. Jatoi's son from the cabinet and expel his party from the ruling IJI [Islami Jahoori Ittehad] alliance. In Sindh, another close alliance partner of Mr. Sharif, the MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] is making sounds of displeasure. In their latest statement, MQM leaders, at a press confertence in Azizabad on Friday, castigated the federal government for what they described as an attitude of "indifference." The MQM MNAs [Members of National Assembly] also went on to warn that continued cooperation with the government could be jeopardised by this attitude. Meanwhile, the Prime Minister's favourite alliance partner, whose dominance in the IJI has earned the coaliton the nickname III and the J (with standing for the Prime Minister), continues to publicly denounce him and his polices. These it variously depicts as not being Islamic enough, or toeing a US-dictated line, as for instance on Afghanistan. For his part the prime Minister has tried to placate the Jamaat [Jamaat-i-Islami] in several ways including releasing funds to the party to use for the Kashmiri cause. But none of these moves seem adequate for the Jamaat, which has continued to assail the Prime Minister in daily broadcasts from its senior leadership.

On top of all this come rumblings from the ANP. These however are hardly new, since PMI [Pakistan Muslim League]-ANP differences, rooted as they are deep in history, were only papered over by their marriage of convenience in the Frontier. Now the Prime Minister is believed to have got personally engaged in trying to end this row.

There is an obvious point that emerges from all of this which is common to Mr Sharif's rocky relatons with various political allies. This concerns the limits of coalition politics, something that most alliance leaders discover at one point or another. When the only glue that binds an alliance is a negative one or simply a common political foe, that is poor insurance for long term durability. This is especially so since each political component may have its own agenda and discrete interests that are at variance with those of others. In other words, Mr Sharif is now at a point when these differences are surfacing as surface they have to sooner or later. The key question however is whether Mr Sharif can continue the balancing act that he has been performing since the last elections. And if so, at what price to his own position? The trouble with coaliton politics is that the leader who presides over such an alliance can easily become hostage to conflicting interests and ambitions. Coming months will determine whether Mr Sharif will have the patience and the stomach to live with these constraints or whether he will seek to govern with the sole help of the party, the Muslim league, that has the largest parliamentary support base, but a rather skewed one—with none in Sindh, and weak representation in the other two smaller province.

Government Called on To Crackdown on Terrorism

BK2603105492 Karachi DAWN in English 26 Mar 92 p 11

[Editorial: "Acts of Sabotage"]

[Text] The impunity with which saboteurs went about their business in Sindh on Monday/Tuesday [23/24 March] night cannot but be viewed with a sense of alarm. They managed to blow up the Sui gas transmission line at four places, disrupting the supply to ten towns of Sindh and the industrial area of Karachi. The same night two pipelines near Sukkkur which supply water to Dharki were also blown up and the Kot Adu-Multan petroleum line was blasted near the Kirthar Park. All this points to a sinister pattern of terrorism and subversion that is now becoming all too apparent.

Although the water and gas supply networks have been damaged by acts of sabotage before, such incidents occurred sporadically. The terrorists generally seemed to concentrate more on disrupting communications by attacking trains—at times with rockets as they did earlier this month—tampering with the rails and holding up vehicles on the highways. That was bad enough, given the psychological impact this state of insecurity created apart from the practical hardships that were caused. Now it seems the terrorists want to widen their area of operation to disrupt economic activity as well.

This has very serious implications. In the first place, the blowing up of gas and water pipelines and electricity transmission wires will affect more people and areas both directly and indirectly. Hence, the sense of insecurity engendered by such acts of sabotage will be deeper and their economic repercussions more widespread. Secondly, providing physical protection to such installations

is difficult, in view of the long distances involved and the isolated nature of the region in which they are located.

As a first step, the government must gear up its intelligence and crime detection apparatus to trace out the culprits responsible for these acts of subversion. This is important if the public's confidence in law and order is to be restored. Moreover, by bringing the criminals to book, the authorities will have sent a warning signal to other saboteurs as well. Apart from this, the administration must take measures to provide some protection to vital pipelines and installations. It might take the form of patrolling in at least the more vulnerable areas. The Chief Minister has promised a new strategy for dealing with such criminal acts. One hopes that it will work and the results will be visible soon.

The bottomline is that the government must get down in earnest to the task of tackling the general law and order situation in Sindh. This not only calls for administrative measures, which are essential in the short term. It is also important that a new political approach aimed at pacification of the province is devised. Terrorism has its roots in the political alienation and economic deprivation of the people. These must be removed if the province is to be rid of the bane of terrorism and lawlessness.

Sri Lanka

'Police Alert' for LTTE Intelligence Chief

BK2503114892 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] A countrywide police alert has gone out for the arrest of LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] intelligence chief Pottu Amman and two other suspects wanted in connection with the assassination of General Ranjan Wijeratne and the GOC [General Office-Commanding] bombing. Police sources told LANKAPUVATH that the two others wanted by the police are Ravi Kumar, the LTTE explosives expert who allegedly assembled the bombs, and Ravi Chandran. Two more suspects, Dayavaran and Arunachalam Surendra, were arrested and have been indicted in the high court of Colombo.

Meanwhile, one LTTE terrorist was killed and three hand grenades recovered when the Special Task Force commandos carried out a cordon and search operation in the Korai estate in eastern Amparai District. At Elephant Pass in the northern Jaffna District, security forces killed another LTTE terrorist.

Government Troops Attacking LTTE 'Terrorists'

BK2403115892 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 24 Mar 92

[Text] Government troops are now attacking LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists from several fronts in the northern and eastern region. The attacks have been launched in Weli Oya, Vavuniya, Trincomalee, Toppigala, Amparai and Polonnaruwa. There are limited operations in Jaffna. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that security forces have meanwhile overrun another major terrorist operational base at Weli Oya. Heavy LTTE casualties are reported as troops of Operation High Power conducted the raids yesterday. According to first reports, many terrorists were believed killed. The Joint Operations Command reports that troops located a terrorist base suspected to be the (Ilichchipudi) base. Having fought a fierce gun battle, troops successfully overran the base killing 17 terrorists. Eight dead bodies of terrorists have so far been recovered by the troops. A search is still in progress.

172 LTTE Fighters Killed in Ongoing Operation

BK2703115892 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] The Operation High Power, which is progressing successfully in the Mullaitivu District, will continue until the aim target is met. This was stated by the JOC [Joint Operations Command] spokesman, Colonel Sarath Munasinghe, when he detailed the security situation at a weekly news briefing in Colombo yesterday.

The security forces have overrun three LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] bases during this operation. One hundred and seventy-two LTTE terrorists have been reported killed in confrontations. Col. Munasinghe said that two or three more LTTE bases are to be overrun, which is the aim target of the security forces. He added that an outpost of security forces had been attacked by the LTTE terrorists last night at Elephant Pass. Responding to a question, Col. Munasinghe said that the security forces are trying their utmost to maintain the targets set to defeat the LTTE militarily before the end of this year.

The navy commander, Vice Admiral Clancy Fernando, told newsmen that following the assassination of late Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Navy intensified their patrols to detect terrorists. This brought the LTTE movement to a drastic drop. He said the recent visit to India cleared more misunderstandings between the two sides.

Colombo Reports Fighting, Casualties in North

BK2903113092 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Text] A number of terrorists, including two senior LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] members—Vivekanand, Sridharan—were killed in a 45-minute gun fight yesterday afternoon at Pooneryn in the north. One army officer, four soldiers, and two sailors also died. The Joint Operations Command told LANKAPUVATH that the terrorists attacked the forward most bunkers of the security forces at (Nagaturai) in Pooneryn. Troops retaliated, forcing the

terrorists to withdraw leaving behind an AK-47 rifle and several rocket-propelled grenades. Meanwhile, three terrorists were killed by troops of Operation High Power at Weli Oya in the Mullaitivu district on Friday. The JOC told LANKAPUVATH that the three Tigers were shot dead by army commandos lying in ambush. Four LTTE members surrendered to the security forces through the TELO [Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization] office at Chenkaladi, while (?six) surrendered to the army detachment at (Kaladianaru) in the Batticaloa district. Special Task Force commandos found an abandoned LTTE base named Shashi during an operation at Kanjikudichchiaru in the Batticaloa district.